

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DO MORE FOR QUEBEC

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister dares to tell us he acted fairly. Perhaps he could explain to the House why he got a letter—why all federal Members are getting letters from the Quebec Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Pagé, who starts by criticizing the lack of action on the part of the federal Government and the discriminatory nature of the measures taken by the Minister.

Why did the Minister pay nearly \$10 million to provinces like Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, which in itself is quite laudable, but do nothing for Quebec?

[English]

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that when they were in office they did not pay their bills with the Province of Quebec. We paid those outstanding expenditures when we came to office. For instance, the bill for crop insurance alone amounted to \$25 million or \$30 million. Indeed, we paid that bill.

The Hon. Member does not know the difference between stabilization and diversion. We did not pay stabilization in Prince Edward Island or the Province of New Brunswick. Rather, we participated in a federal-provincial program of diversion. There is a difference.

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## TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—ROLE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday in the House, in response to my colleague from Ottawa Centre who asked about releasing or making available to Members of Parliament the impact studies on free trade, the Minister for International Trade said, as reported at page 12608 of *Hansard*:

Representatives of all sectors of our economy, including the manufacturing, labour, and farming sectors, will be involved in the elaborate advisory system which we have set up.

Why is that not also afforded to Members of Parliament who represent the country as a whole in a variety of ways? Why will Members of the House of Commons not be invited to take part in a discussion of what is going on as well as participating in the monitoring, making judgments, and giving advice with regard to the free trade talks that are about to be undertaken?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, for some time both sides of the House have expressed an interest in having a debate in the House of Commons with regard to the trade negotiations. Certainly the Government would welcome and encourage that kind of debate and, now that there has been an agreement reached by the

U.S. Senate to authorize the President to negotiate, we would hope it might be possible for House Leaders to work out the details of that debate.

As far as other discussions are concerned, I think we would be quite prepared to make the maximum information available to Members of Parliament consistent with the necessary position that Canada would have to take at any bargaining table. No one in the House would want information here to prejudice the Canadian case that might be made in the privacy of negotiations.

REQUEST THAT IMPACT STUDIES BE MADE AVAILABLE

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, may I interpret that to mean that the impact studies that have already been done and will be made available—if not in whole, at least in part—to the groups that were mentioned by the Minister for International Trade, will in fact be made available to Members of the House of Commons in advance of a debate taking place in the House so that the debate can focus on the role that both the Parliament of Canada and the Government will play in the determination of the free trade talks?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I want to take a very careful look at precisely what the Hon. Member is proposing, but I believe that we can agree to the request that he made.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, since the House of Commons may well be given the information that is necessary, will the Government, in advance of any negotiations taking place, make sure that at least the same degree of information that has been made available to the provinces so far is made available to Members of the House of Commons? The President of the United States has guaranteed that that kind of information will be made available to Senators in the United States which means that they would, in fact, have far greater knowledge of what is going on in the talks than we would have.

● (1125)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, information which is being exchanged between the federal Government and the provincial Governments is not all one way. They are providing information to us and we are working very closely together in the preparation of a common information base. There might be some reluctance about some details of that information being made available publicly, but my view is that we should make available to Members of Parliament as much information as we can. I will take a very careful look at the details of the Hon. Member's request and we will try to honour it as fully as we can.