

Oral Questions

pretty carefully, I think it is ridiculous, and I hope that the advertisers reconsider.

● (1500)

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET BROADCASTERS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am not making an allegation, I am making a statement of fact. On February 28 the Department of National Health and Welfare was telexed. If the Minister had chosen at that time, he could have shown leadership and personally set up a meeting with the broadcasters to let them know that they should join the 20th century. Is the Minister prepared today to set up a meeting with the broadcasters to let them know that they should run these ads to let the public know that this deadly disease AIDS has to be fought across the airwaves? We have to get the message out, and we need the Minister's leadership. We do not need his platitudes.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the country does not need the Member's allegations or sensationalism. When the CPHA had submitted the ads in January, changes were made in February with respect to some of the problems that the broadcasters, had such as the one I already mentioned, and the visual use of packets of condoms. That was all changed. I believe with respect to those changes we were trying to meet the broadcasters request as much as we could.

I have said to the broadcasters publicly that I hope they will reconsider. Just today at one o'clock, for example, at the International Conference on AIDS in this city the various ads being used in various jurisdictions were being shown. I think as people look at what is happening in other jurisdictions and as they are looking at what our ads are like, a second opinion might prevail and they might show those ads.

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AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN GROWERS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I think all grain farmers appreciate the very difficult task which the Government has in responding to the special needs of the grain industry today. However, I think the Minister has a responsibility to be as clear as is humanly possible—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would ask when the time for Question Period is coming to a close that Hon. Members would pay attention to the clock and make sure that their preambles are short, concise, and their questions are to the point. The Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hovdebo: In view of the cloudy answer the Minister gave me yesterday, Mr. Speaker, will he indicate clearly that there will, indeed, be special assistance for the grain industry in the next crop year? Even if he does not give the specific details, will there be assistance available?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I must indicate that it was not a cloudy message that I gave the Hon. Member yesterday. It was a very clear message. It was a message that initially 55 farm leaders joined with me last Thursday. The Hon. Member should understand that it would be quite inappropriate for us at this point to give any indication that would influence the farmers' decision to plant the 1987 crop.

I would refer the Hon. Member to words in the Speech from the Throne where it states that the Government will spare no effort. I refer him as well to the language in the Budget which mandated the Canadian Wheat Board Minister and myself to continue meeting farm leaders to work out some type of useful, common sense and effective program to assist Canadian farmers in their time of difficulty.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister then indicate that there will be money available next crop year which will be at least as much as there was last year since we know the price of grain will go down at least 20 per cent?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think it is obvious at this point in time that I cannot give that indication. I can indicate that the Government has always placed a high priority on agriculture. I ask the Member to examine the record. Our Government recognizes the difficulty in the grains and oil seed sector and we have signalled every intention to work with the farm leadership of this country to map out some type of a program that will be of assistance in their time of difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: I must advise the House that the time for Question Period has expired.

I think it is appropriate for the Chair to hear the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais) in the continuation of the question of privilege originally brought here a few days ago by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) and the intervention yesterday of the Hon. President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret).

I also want to give notice to Members that I have notice of a point of order on behalf of the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) and I will hear the Hon. Member when the first matter is completed.