

**GRAIN****FUNDS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. On last February 3 the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), for political reasons, turned down Bill C-245 which would have set up a trust fund for research and development into cereal grain and oilseeds suitable for cultivation in western Canada, utilizing some \$9 million of producers' money held by the government in a non-interest bearing account known as the Prairie Farm Emergency Fund. The reason given by the minister was that he planned on tabling a similar bill himself, but there has been no sign of that bill.

• (1115)

In view of the fact that since February 3, at present interest rates, over one quarter million dollars in interest has been lost to research and development in western Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers):

That cabinet make a decision to pay interest on the said fund retroactive to February 3 until such time as the trust has been set up.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES****PUBLICATION OF REPORTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Can he explain to the House why his government appears to be using a double standard with respect to combines investigation reports, in that with respect to the report touching on the oil industry his government seemed to welcome making the report public, even a press conference was held and much coverage was given to the matter, whereas with respect to the report touching on the uranium cartel which, as we know, involved the government itself, the government has chosen to keep the matter secret?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, my recollection of the matter is that it was the investigator himself who made the report on the petroleum industry public. In this case the same man decided to refer the matter to the Department of Justice. Perhaps there is an explanation for his change of conduct, but I am afraid I do not

*Oral Questions*

know about it. The responsible minister will be here on Tuesday of next week.

**PROHIBITION ON REMOVING REGULATIONS**

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister who seems carefully to avoid committing himself to the Canadian public about what they had been told in 1977, and only two months ago were told by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that the report of the director of combines and investigation with respect to the uranium industry would be made available to them. I hope the Prime Minister will not try to dodge my question. Will he indicate why he persists in maintaining the uranium cartel gag regulations, why he feels it is right to curtail the rights of Canadians in that way? Is it, in fact, that he hesitates to lift the gag regulation because he is nervous that certain of his Liberal friends might be embarrassed by the information which would come out, or is it the iron lady of Westminster, Mrs. Thatcher, who has so frightened the Prime Minister that he is nervous about lifting the gag regulations?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows why the regulations were adopted, that is, to prevent American law from compelling Canadian companies or individuals to do certain things. We on this side of the House believe that we are not subject to American law. That might be the view of the hon. member but—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** It obviously is the view of some members opposite, otherwise they would not object to this regulation which tells Canadian citizens and Canadian companies that they do not have to answer subpoenas, they do not have to answer the injunction of American law. It is as simple as that.

The hon. member asks if we will repeal these regulations. I indicated in the House the other day that they would not be repealed as long as they were needed to protect Canadians from the application of American law. There are still some cases before the courts now, some Canadian citizens and some Canadian corporations are still sought after by American law. We will protect them as long as is necessary. I could—

**Mr. Wilson:** Come on, that is a joke.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The hon. member opposite does not think this is serious business. I would ask him to talk to some of his numerous friends in the uranium industry, for instance Mr. Steve Roman, and ask him if he thinks these laws were necessary to protect Canadians or not.