

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of what dredging the hon. gentleman is speaking about. I was engaged in reading at the time of his question. However, I will look at the question and if it is under my responsibility I will certainly have it looked into.

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**INCOME TAX**

## REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR FILING

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that accountants across Canada are still experiencing massive delays in the receipt of T-5's which are still coming into their offices, in view of the fact that many RRSP slips are still coming in over 30 days late, and in view of the enormous backlog of mail in post offices across Canada, will the Acting Prime Minister now indicate to that vital arm of the Revenue Department, Canada's accountants and taxpayers, that the government is prepared to extend the tax deadline beyond April 30.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will not give that undertaking but I will discuss the situation with my colleague. Generally speaking, we find that these reports are exaggerated. I am sure the hon. gentleman would want the government to bring in the revenue to which it is entitled on time.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT RECEIVED BY  
QUEBEC POTATO GROWERS

**Mr. Albert Bécharde (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence, I will put it to his very able parliamentary secretary.

Could he tell us whether the Department of Agriculture intends to correct very soon the different treatment given to Quebec potato growers who cannot take advantage of the subsidies recently announced by the Department of Agriculture with respect to potato sales for animal consumption?

**Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to elucidate the situation. As the result of various pressures made by government members, the Department of Agriculture has decided to grant what it had already granted to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island producers. We will announce this afternoon a policy for eastern Canada, that is the same formula available to Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

[Mr. McKinley.]

[English]

**PUBLIC SERVICE**NEW FORMULA FOR ESCALATION OF PENSIONS—SUGGESTED  
APPEARANCE OF MINISTER BEFORE COMMITTEE ON BILL C-52

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the assurance the minister gave me on Tuesday, March 18, that he would take good note of my request for improvements in the formula in respect of the escalation of pensions of retired public servants, retired RCMP and retired armed forces personnel, and in view of the fact that Bill C-52 is now before the House of Commons, may I ask if the President of the Treasury Board will be prepared to appear before the committee to which this bill is to be referred and come forward with the improvements he has thought out in the meantime?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as all ministers, I am at the disposal of the House and when a committee summons me, I am pleased to appear before it.

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[English]

**ENERGY**OIL—GOVERNMENT ACTION RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL  
PRICING ARRANGEMENTS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question regarding the Paris Conference which did not exactly work out is directed to the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Now that Canada is becoming a very substantial net importer of oil does the Government of Canada intend to take any initiative concerning international arrangements related to the price of oil? I know the Acting Prime Minister said the opinion he expressed in the House would reverberate around the world, but I wonder beyond that whether the Government of Canada is doing anything more here that it is in respect of South Vietnam?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, if I might answer, the standing committee has of course completed its study of the international energy program agreement and we will be proceeding in the very near future to indicate our participation in the International Energy Agency. I think I would have to concede to the analysis of the Leader of the Opposition about the breakdown in the Paris discussions. One of the initiatives we will be taking will be within the International Energy Agency to see if that particular discussion can be reopened and, as a substantial exporter of a number of primary commodities, to see what agreement there would be on expanding the discussions so that they could find some agreement among the developing countries and other primary exporters.