

*Oral Questions*

Canadian shareholders. It paid \$686 million in dividends to its American parent last year but reinvested just \$38.1 million in exploration in Canada. We have a typical big, fat American multinational oil company here. Is this the kind of past performance that is acceptable to the Canadian Government?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, first I must say that the Hon. Member used my quote, and second, that the answer is no.

## POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT CONDITIONS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, the answer being no, would the Minister then tell the House what his plans are? Given that the Canadian people have invested so much money in Dome Petroleum and given that this is one of the largest takeovers in Canadian history—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would remind Hon. Members that the time taken up while a member is trying to put a question is often taken into account by the Speaker toward the end of Question Period. I know that Hon. Members at times do not wish to stay here any longer than they absolutely have to, but if time is taken away from legitimate questions, that is something the Speaker does have in mind.

**Mr. Waddell:** What kind of terms does the Government intend to impose on Amoco? Will the conditions be a few token Canadians on the board, or a few shareholders, or will the Government propose some substantial terms for reinvestment in Canada?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that what I said last week still holds, that the Government has not received any proposal from a corporation within the framework of Investment Canada.

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[*English*]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR JOHN F. KELLY

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the Gallery of Michigan State Senator John F. Kelly, Co-chairman of the Michigan Select Committee on Ontario-Michigan Relations.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## AGRICULTURE

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF INITIAL GRAIN PRICES—REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Last week the Government cut grain prices for the new crop year by 18 per cent. Today the Government started foreclosures on thousands of Farm Credit Corporation loans. So far farmers do not know if there will be a deficiency payment. Our trading adversaries in the United States and the EEC do not know if a deficiency payment will be provided to our farmers.

In view of these two Draconian measures that have taken place in the last two weeks, is the Minister prepared to give a commitment today that there will be a deficiency payment made to provide for at least the same returns farmers received in the past crop year?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should realize that because of the financial impact of the supportive measures the Government has taken and the measures we have already announced, Canadian grain farmers will recognize that the amount of income they receive as of today will not only be equal to that which they received last year but rather will be slightly increased.

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO DEFICIENCY PAYMENT

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the new crop year. Grain prices have been cut by 18 per cent and foreclosures on thousands of farmers are starting today. There is no commitment to a deficiency payment in the new crop year. Will the Government make a commitment now to make a deficiency payment in the new crop year beginning August 1?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I again remind the Hon. Member that the \$700 million final payment under the Special Canadian Grains Program will be mailed to Canadian grain farmers by the end of May. As well, the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board announced a week ago a record interim payment of \$705 million. That is \$1.4 billion that will be in the hands of Canadian grain farmers by the end of May or the beginning of June.

The Hon. Member should also realize that in keeping our commitment we made at the farm leaders' meeting of March 5, it is inappropriate and will remain inappropriate for the Government to make any announcements about future actions that will be taken by the Government. The Hon. Member should also realize that we will be meeting again with farm leaders the first week in June and will continue our consultations with them to map out some type of program for the future.