

Mr. Speaker: I must, of course, be absolutely even-handed here today and remind the Right Hon. Prime Minister that his enthusiasm also must be held in check. He should not refer to other Hon. Members with the word "you" or in the other language "vous".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

REQUEST THAT PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PAY
EXPENSES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister may not owe me an apology but he owes the people of Canada an apology.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: This behaviour would make Marie Antoinette envious. Can the Prime Minister tell this House here and now whether the Conservative Party is going to reimburse the taxpayers of Canada for what was nothing less than a giant photo opportunity for him and his friend Ronald Reagan?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the honourable—

An Hon. Member: I see the Irish are smiling.

Mr. Mulroney: If you are going to speak ill of the Irish, I am telling you—

Mr. Speaker: I want to assure the Right Hon. Prime Minister that I do not think anybody wishes to speak ill of anybody in this Chamber. Perhaps the Right Hon. Prime Minister will have another go at answering the Hon. Member.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend is suggesting that, indeed, we have friendly relationships with the President of the United States, he is quite right. That is the way it ought to be. As he will see, we hope in January to have the—

[Translation]

Prime Minister of France, Mr. Chirac, visit Ottawa and we intend to give him the same cordial welcome we give all our friends and allies, all heads of state who visit Canada.

We do not act like clowns or idiots, we behave in a mature and dignified way, like any country with the least bit of self-respect.

[English]

Oral Questions

AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM—AMOUNT OF
ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It is about yesterday's announcement of the farm aid program.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Thank you for your question last week.

Mr. Nystrom: I did not realize I was that popular with the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: You are not.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: At least I was.

Canadians should realize that even with the billion dollars that we appreciate—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nystrom: —Canadians should be aware that our farmers will still be receiving some \$2.50 a bushel less than farmers in the United States. In light of that, does the Minister of Agriculture consider that the billion dollars are sufficient for Canadian farmers when they will still receive \$2.50 a bushel less than American farmers? Is it sufficient in view of the fact that this is a long-term problem?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's comments and representations. We certainly recognize that there is a very significant short-fall between the income of the U.S. farmer and the income of the Canadian farmer. I think what is important is that this Government recognizes there is a problem. Our Government made a commitment to do everything possible to make up that short-fall. We made that commitment, and yesterday we delivered on that commitment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TIMING OF PAYMENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture why this payment is being spread over two fiscal years? There is some concern in the west that this procedure may preclude a payment next year if the problem remains the same. Can we have, in other words, a commitment from the Minister of continuing support as long as the farmers are being ravaged by the international grain war situation in which we are now?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Obviously, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Hon. Member would not want to be irresponsible and mislead Canadian farmers into thinking