

*Oral Questions*

I would point out that an Alberta Wheat Pool spokesman, Doug Brunton, said: "We are pleased in regard to actions taken recently by the federal Government". Brunton praised the federal Government and said: "From an agriculturalist's point of view, the Government is performing rather well".

● (1450)

I think what that means is that farmers realize this is a complex situation but they do have a Government in office disposed to work with them to solve the problems.

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**FARM CREDIT CORPORATION****LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON FARM FORECLOSURES**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, farmers would like to know exactly what support they are going to receive in the upcoming crop year. Last Friday morning, after this letter was sent, the only response from the Government was to lift the moratorium on FCC foreclosures. The Minister of Agriculture says he is going to foreclose on only 600 this year. Do the Prime Minister and the Government not know that this will cause great uncertainty for the 6,000 farmers in arrears? Will he reinstate the moratorium until proper debt restructuring programs are put in place and end the uncertainty caused by the lifting of the moratorium?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as usual the Hon. Member is quite inaccurate and quite misinformed. He continues to talk about thousands of people who will be affected. The fact of the matter is that 670 farmers were held by the moratorium. At this moment it is estimated that over half of those farmers have already left.

It is interesting to note that a spokesperson for the Alberta Wheat Pool praised the federal Government, "in contrast to opposition MPs who this week blasted the Progressive Conservative Government for being insensitive to western Canada." It is also interesting to see what the *Winnipeg Free Press* said about the Official Opposition task force. It was summed up as being pathetic, vague, meaningless and—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**Some Hon. Members:** More!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap.

**ENERGY****PROPOSED PURCHASE OF DOME PETROLEUM BY AMOCO CANADA—LETTER REPORTEDLY SENT BY AMOCO TO IMPERIAL OIL**

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy. He now has in his possession a copy of the letter to Imperial Oil from Amoco stating that they have a binding contract with Dome, and that it prohibits providing information in connection with any acquisition proposal. It also prohibits entering into any agreement with respect to an acquisition proposal.

Given the very significant impact this takeover will have on western Canada, indeed Canada as a whole, does the Minister not consider it time to intervene in this takeover to ensure that Canada comes out with a deal that makes sense for this country as opposed to making sense for Amoco?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I said before that I would ask for an analysis by the Department of Justice and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. I have not had time to do so since Question Period began, and I think it will have to wait until after Question Period. I will get back to the Hon. Member tomorrow.

[English]

**MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, given that response, is one to believe that the Minister plans to take action to ensure that there will be more than one player in this takeover? If Amoco is in fact cutting out all other proposals, including Imperial Oil which we learned about today, is he prepared to take action to ensure there will be a number of participants bidding to take over Dome?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the best action plan for now is to request information to act.

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**CROWN CORPORATIONS****USE OF POTATOES IMPORTED FROM BELGIUM**

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is leaving for western Canada to talk to western Canadian farmers.

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

**Mr. Baker:** He will find that farmers in Manitoba and Alberta will be saying the same thing as farmers in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. That is, that prices are so low—