

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****SOUTHERN ONTARIO TOMATO CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Last week the Ontario Vegetable Marketing Board withdrew its support for the \$1.5 million grant that the Minister is giving to the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative for the purchase of the Topaz plant at St. Thomas. Since the support of the marketing board was one of the Minister's conditions for giving the grant is the Minister now going to withdraw the \$1.5 million grant to this group?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, no, we have not reached that decision. We have worked with members of the co-op and with the provincial Government and no final decisions have been made. There have been other conditions laid down by us and by the provincial Government. However, the particular condition to which the Hon. Member refers rests more particularly, more precisely, and more appropriately with the responsibility of the provincial Government and not with the federal Government. The Vegetable Marketing Board is a creation of the province and not of the federal Government. As such, it receives its mandate from provincial legislation and not from federal legislation.

**TOMATO PASTE IMPORTS**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, since the tomato paste industry is facing unfair competition with low-priced imports being shipped into Canada at about 30 per cent below the cost of production, is the Government planning to take any action to protect these hard-pressed producers?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know that the producers or the industry have the opportunity, if they decide, to launch an investigation of injury. They might choose to launch a countervail action or an anti-dumping action. That must come from the industry and not from the Government.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY****DELIVERY OF CHEQUES—POSSIBLE RESULT OF CANADA POST CORPORATION ACTION**

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the Minister aware of a letter sent from the Income Security Programs to Canada Post which states in part:

This is to confirm our recent discussions that our department will not intervene should Canada Post withdraw the letter carrier notifications service to Health and Welfare Canada.

Is the Minister aware that this move means that seniors, disabled, and families receiving family allowance will receive

their cheques late when they change their residences? Is the Minister prepared to intervene?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am not specifically aware of the letter to which the Hon. Member refers. However, I am aware of the situation. I am fully cognizant of the issue. We have found that the present system is not satisfactory. We believe we can get the same information out in other ways.

**PRICE CHARGED BY CORPORATION**

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister does not seem to be aware that dropping this service will mean that seniors will receive their cheques late. Rather than acquiescing in a call for a drop in service by Canada Post why does the Minister not question the \$700,000 price-tag that Canada Post attaches to this service? Why not challenge Canada Post, instead of cutting off services to seniors?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of cutting off services to seniors. Nor is it a matter of challenging Canada Post. We have a responsibility for giving information to seniors, as well as having a responsibility for being cost-effective. The same type of thing applied, for example, in April. There are a number of seniors who failed to give us an update on their last year's income, and for a period of time we did not and could not advance their GIS, for example.

There are many ways to get this information to seniors. I suggest to the Hon. Member that the methods are in place, including information which I hope he and his colleagues will give out through their constituency offices. In addition, we have senior citizens pension advisers, both in urban centres and on a casual basis in rural areas. This information can be given out in that way as well.

**Mr. Keeper:** This way works!

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[Translation]

**TELEVISION****FRENCH TELEVISION RIGHTS TO 1988 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. I gave notice of the question I am about to put to him on Friday, and it concerns the TV broadcasting of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary and the fact that television rights for the Games have been granted to CTV, which in turn has made arrangements to have TVA, a Quebec network, retransmit the signal to Quebec.

My question is: What is going to be done about getting the French signal to one million Francophones outside Quebec?