

*Oral Questions*

and, I hope, ingenuity as well, so that the very valid position put forward by the Government of Canada and by the producers in British Columbia and elsewhere, will prevail.

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**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES****REMUNERATION OF FORMER ENERGY CHIEF OF STAFF**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and in her absence—although there is a “surfer” sitting in her seat—

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

**Mr. Boudria:** —I would like to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister who is in charge of cutting everything. It concerns the outrageous expenditure of funds paid to Mr. Harry Near to be the Chief of staff of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources at a salary equivalent to \$150,000 a year. Can the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House how he can justify that kind of expenditure of public funds when he and others are trying to cut back on salaries of floor cleaners and others who work for the Department of Public Works? Where is the priority of the Government?

● (1500)

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the Hon. Member asked the question because it will give me a chance to make three points. First, Mr. Near was paid from the Minister's exempt staff salary budget and no extra funds were paid. Secondly, he took a pay cut to work in the Minister's office. Thirdly, and most important, he was hired to do a job, to set up the Minister's office, and to act as a senior policy adviser on the Western Accord and Atlantic Accord. All Canadians know the success of those two Accords, and I think we got good value for money spent.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** A very short supplementary.

[Translation]

**ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN MINISTERS**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the President of the Treasury Board. How many other Ministers cheat that way to give extravagant fees to Conservative Party supporters? How many other Ministers are cheating as does the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** That question is out of order.

**CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of one, presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, December 10, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Parry) does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[Translation]

**THE CABINET****TABLING OF LISTS RESPECTING CABINET COMMITTEES AND MINISTERS' FUNCTIONS**

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47(2), I have the honour of laying on the Table of the House, in both official languages, a document describing the membership of Cabinet committees, with Order in Council P.C. 1985-356, naming the list of Ministers authorized to act on behalf of the Prime Minister in his absence and the list of Acting Ministers.

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[English]

**AGRICULTURE****BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM—STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I want to take this brief opportunity to draw Hon. Members' attention to a very small celebration which took place just across the Ottawa River earlier today. It was a gathering of which all Hon. Members can be proud. Agriculture Canada's Food Production and Inspection Branch hosted a luncheon to pay tribute to all those in our beef and dairy industries, the veterinary services of every province and private veterinarians, who, together with the staff of my Department, have eradicated bovine brucellosis from our national cattle herd.

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

**Mr. Wise:** Virtually every Canadian beef and dairy farmer deserved a place at that table. Without their complete co-operation, success would have been impossible.

Bovine brucellosis is a serious and contagious disease which causes abortions and production losses in cattle. It also causes undulant fever in humans. One hundred cattle-producing nations have mounted eradication campaigns. Of these, only the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland and, this year, Canada, have reached the goal. We in Canada have mounted