

*Oral Questions*

In that announcement, the Deputy Prime Minister said, and I will use his words, that it will contain a framework for federal decisions affecting western Canada.

● (1420)

Last weekend the Minister of Transport was in western Canada, with the knowledge of the Deputy Prime Minister I am sure. He rejected out of hand the proposal for an elected Senate. Will proposals for an elected Senate be included in the Deputy Prime Minister's plan for a western economic strategy, or was the Minister of Transport speaking on behalf of the Government when he rejected that proposal?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Hon. Member and other Hon. Members that we have done more for western Canada than was proposed by the Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry when he announced a \$4 billion package for western Canada which disappeared rather quickly. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition was not very involved in the Liberal Party at that particular time. He was speaking very harshly against the policies of the Liberal Government. I suspect he has not changed now.

With regard to the Liberals' suggestion for improving the western economy, the Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry unveiled a policy the other day which suggested that, to bring the west back into Confederation and restore the economy, they were going to hold a federal-provincial conference. That is really earth-shattering. I would have thought that after the disaster and fallout from the WEOC conference they would not engage in that sort of titillating stuff.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister is a little agitated this afternoon. I can understand that. He was in western Canada this weekend. It is too bad he could not have kept his eye on the Minister of Transport who was also out there. The Minister of Agriculture has been or is going out there. The Minister of the Environment has been out there, as has the Minister of International Trade. Everyone is a little disturbed about what is happening to the Government in western Canada.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** At least we get bigger crowds than you do, John.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Oh yeah? I'll help you make a crowd any time, Ray.

## INITIAL PRICES FOR GRAIN

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. While westerners are cooling their heels and farmers are going bankrupt waiting for the Prime Minister to fulfil that three-year promise, will the Government give a commitment today that the 1987-1988 initial prices for grain will be announced immediately? Will the Government guarantee that those prices will at least equal the prices of last year?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, that question has been answered in the House before. As is the custom, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board will announce those prices on the appropriate occasion at a time which will be appropriate for the producers.

In response to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's condemnation of what we have done, I would like to remind you of what he said about some of the things which were put in place by the former Government which we have undone.

He had the following to say about the National Energy Program:

This policy has curtailed production, savaged investment, killed mega-projects, ruined investor confidence, profoundly damaged relationships with the United States and spawned even further federal-provincial tension.

We have reversed that, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Table that.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I would be very glad to table that, Mr. Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House.

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

## ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF MANITOBA SUGAR COMPANY PLANT

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister as well. With regard to public consultation, the only initiative we have seen from the Government has been that taken by the Member for Edmonton—Strathcona. It is too bad the Government has not listened more carefully to some of its back-bench members with regard to western Canada.

I will ask a specific question of the Deputy Prime Minister. The NDP Government in Manitoba and the Conservative Government in Ottawa have been at total loggerheads with regard to developing a support program for the sugar farmers in the Province of Manitoba. As a result, the Manitoba Sugar Company has announced the closing of its plant, which will put a \$90 million industry out of business and will wipe out 300 or 400 farmers and 400 or 500 jobs.

In light of these very serious circumstances, can the Deputy Prime Minister instruct the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board to undertake immediate negotiations with the Province of Manitoba to resolve the stalemate within the week in order that those farmers can seed their crops and we can preserve that industry in Manitoba?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I am correct in saying that the Hon. Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board responded to that question. I think he indicated at the time that Manitoba was offered an opportunity to participate in a program to be shared by the federal and provincial Governments. The Province of Alberta undertook to