

*Oral Questions*

goods and services which are attributable to a prolonged disability?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, the special House committee which has looked into the many problems the handicapped are facing has prepared an extremely important report which proposes certain amendments to the Income Tax Act. As the hon. member is certainly well aware, changes to the tax structure are made at the time a budget is presented. The Minister of Finance has already indicated that he would present a new budget next Fall. The hon. member can be assured that the committee's report and recommendations concerning the handicapped will be given special consideration by the Minister of Finance when the time comes for him to prepare his budget.

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● (1450)

[English]

**GRAIN****DROP IN SOYBEAN AND RAPESEED PRICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON COMPENSATION**

**Mr. Stan Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the grain embargo—just in case he thinks we have forgotten all about it. Soybean and rapeseed prices dropped considerably immediately after the embargo on shipments to Russia was put in place. The price of soybeans dropped about \$25 a ton. Most of this crop is grown in the constituency from which the minister comes. I have been distressed of late to hear that these two crops are not being considered for compensation. Would the minister indicate whether or not these two crops are being considered for compensation?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, these two crops are not being considered for compensation.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Madam Speaker, that was a record answer from the minister.

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

**Mr. Hovdebo:** I am sure the farmers in Essex County will be as distressed as I am to hear his answer.

Although the minister told us last November that the government was ready to pay compensation, it still has not done so. The minister has avoided tabling any kind of white paper or giving hon. members any indication of how he will calculate the compensation to be paid. Would he explain to the House, and the farmers, why there has been this long delay in making payment of compensation?

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, in the first part of the hon. member's question he acknowledged that part of the delay was

due to the fact that some of the requests for compensation, such as the request by the soybean growers in my area, which he mentioned, were made only a few weeks ago. That caused a delay.

At the time of the finalization of this program all the facts with respect to how it came about will be made public.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****INQUIRY WHETHER PRICE STABILIZATION PROGRAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR PORK PRODUCERS**

**Mr. Marcel Dionne (Chicoutimi):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

For the past several months, the Canadian Federation of Hog Producers have been seeking a hog price stabilization plan from the Minister of Agriculture. Hon. members are aware that the prices on the world market had slumped so much that producers were selling their hogs below their production costs. Could the Minister of Agriculture advise us whether there will be a hog price stabilization plan, when producers will be paid, and how much the hog price stabilization plan for Canadian hog producers will amount to?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, there will be a hog stabilization plan which will amount to \$8.96 per finished hog. This sum will be paid as soon as possible. As a result of the experience of last year we have all the names of producers in a computer, so it should not take very long to finalize the payment to them.

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

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**ENERGY****FUTURE OF COLD LAKE, ALTA. PROJECT**

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As the minister is aware, the June 1 deadline for the Cold Lake project, to which the government loaned \$40 million, is fast approaching. The minister is also aware that Imperial Oil has indicated that unless there are clear indications that an energy agreement is imminent it will shelve the project. Will the minister be giving a clear indication that there will be an energy agreement so that this project vital to Canada will not be shelved? If not, will the minister be preparing another loan to Imperial Oil to keep its design and engineering team together?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the answer to the first part of