

*Oral Questions***FINANCE****REQUEST THAT TAX CREDIT BE INTRODUCED FOR USED FARM MACHINERY**

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Because of falling farm incomes and inordinately high prices of new equipment, many young farmers and starting farmers have great difficulty replacing their worn out farm machinery. Has the Minister of Finance looked into the benefits of a tax credit for used machinery similar to that which is in place for new machinery? Is he aware of the job benefits which would result both to the farm manufacturing sector and to the manufacturing area?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take this question as a representation in the preparation of the next Budget.

FARM FUEL TAXES

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, because of the rising cost of farm inputs and commodity prices for farmers not rising at the same rate, would the Minister look at the high take of the federal Government as far as farm fuel taxes are concerned? Would he give that the same consideration as a reduction to assist starting farmers in agricultural food production across the country?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will give the same answer to this question as to the previous one.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION**CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY**

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question follows on the one raised by the Hon. Member for Beaches regarding the Chinese New Year. Will the Minister responsible for Canada Post look into this matter immediately so that Chinese workers will have February 2 off for this important celebration in the Chinese community?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have taken note of the question and will refer the case to the postal authorities.

[*English*]**APPLICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S MULTICULTURAL POLICIES IN CROWN CORPORATIONS**

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. Would he be prepared to undertake briefings in multiculturalism in our major Crown corporations

to ensure more sensitivity and that this type of event does not occur in the future?

Hon. D. M. Collette (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I believe most of our Crown corporations are fully aware of the multicultural policies of the Government, but if there can be any improvement I am certainly willing to assist in that regard.

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PRIVACY**PUBLIC'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS AND DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS**

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the response by the Minister of Finance today, will the Acting Prime Minister tell me and the people of this country what guarantee any individual citizen now has that a private conversation that he or she conducts with departmental officials or Ministers of the Crown will not be discussed publicly on the floor of the House of Commons?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my impression, subject to correction, is that the case mentioned by the Minister of Finance was the same as the one mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. That is the impression I have.

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POINT OF ORDER**MR. EPP—TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BY MR. LALONDE**

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order flowing from the Question Period today respecting the exchange that my colleagues and I had with the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Pepin) and those relating to comments made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) Tuesday and Friday last and today.

I want to give to you, Mr. Speaker, a very tightly argued debate. Before I do that, I want to say to you as an introduction to the point I want to make that a number of us, as individual Members of Parliament, when the exchange took place last Tuesday, had some very serious questions that we asked ourselves and that we discussed with each other in terms of what is proper within this House, what is acceptable and what is not.

I was disturbed all last week about that question. I was surprised as well that on the weekend constituents raised the same question with me, not in a partisan sense but in the context raised by the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald); that is, what is privileged when a citizen writes to his or her government or has a conversation