

Oral Questions

Does the Minister agree with this view? Is the Government of Canada guilty, is our industry guilty, yes or no?

[English]

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member may speak for the Senator from Idaho but I am speaking for the Government of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Carney: I can only repeat the point I have made in this House that the position—as I say, it is our only offer—which has been presented to the Americans has the support of the provinces involved, the industry involved and the union involved, and was taken forward to the American administration to see if it could persuade the lumber producers who brought this action not only to withdraw the action they have taken against us but to stop the harassment. That is the position that I think is the only reasonable, realistic, and pragmatic position that any Government can take when it is being asked to move on behalf of Canadians in an industry under attack.

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● (1130)

AGRICULTURE**GRAIN PRODUCERS—REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Wednesday's Speech from the Throne contained a number of platitudes about the Government's commitment to agriculture. However, to the amazement of Premier Devine, and almost everyone in western Canada, there was not one word about deficiency payments to our western farmers. Will the Minister stand in his place and make amends for this great omission by announcing a deficiency payment of at least \$2 billion to western Canadian grain producers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we need not make any apologies for the strong commitment given to the agricultural industry in the Speech from the Throne.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wise: I challenge the Hon. Member to seek the help and advice of the Library of Parliament. I am certain he will find that this is the first time in the history of Canada that the agricultural industry was mentioned first in a Throne Speech.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wise: Something which the Hon. Member cannot deny is the statement that, in terms of agriculture, "my Government will spare no effort".

That is a very firm commitment to the agricultural industry.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Agriculture spare no effort to ensure that the commitment is made known to the farmers? Will he tell us that he has failed in his battle with the Minister of Finance, that there is no money for farmers and, therefore, they will not receive the kind of commitment about which he has been telling us for the last ten months?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Government has spared no efforts since the day we were sworn into office. I ask the Hon. Member to check the record, and the facts will bear this out. The Government made 16 campaign commitments: we have fulfilled 15 of them. To date we have delivered some 320 achievements and commitments, transferring over \$5 billion to the agricultural industry and, ladies and gentlemen—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wise:—and, Mr. Speaker, we have only just begun.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**U.S.S.R.—TREATMENT OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION CORRESPONDENT**

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It would appear that CBC correspondent Michael McIvor was the target of a Daniloff-style set-up in Moscow. Will the Secretary of State tell the House whether he summoned the Russian Ambassador to his office to protest strongly this extraordinary and incredible action? Will he tell us whether or not he has instructed our ambassador to deliver a note of protest to the Kremlin?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, naturally we are deeply concerned about the reports relating to the CBC correspondent in Moscow, as I am sure are all Members of the House. This morning the Soviet Ambassador to Canada was called into the Department of External Affairs. Our deep concern about this matter was registered to him. We have asked for an immediate explanation. As soon as we have further details, naturally, I will make them available to the House and to the country.