

Is it a requirement of this understanding that Canadian subsidies such as the Special Grains Program must be dropped immediately, or can Canadian subsidies be reduced over the extended phase-out period?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, the agreement reached at the OECD meetings last week in Paris was good news in that for the first time there was unanimous agreement that agriculture should be given top priority. The language of the communiqué, which I am sure the Hon. Member has looked at, is certainly encouraging.

We have no intention of doing anything which would damage our farmers other than to act, if we are satisfied, in total concert with other countries to ensure that collectively we can bring some action to bear which will resolve this very serious international question.

CANADIAN POLICY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform the House of what, if any, concrete commitments have been made by the Americans and/or the Europeans to put on the table for the OECD meetings?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, it is more of a question of the progress that we can make at the over-all GATT discussions which are presently under way. There is good potential, as I understand it, to have proposals tabled during the summer and to have discussions on those proposals under way early in the new year.

As the Hon. Member will recall, the last time GATT meetings were under way at the Tokyo Round it took over four years for these types of discussions to begin. We are on a very much shortened time frame and the proposals which will be put on the table will certainly be at the GATT for discussion and not in this kind of a forum.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

PROVISION OF SERVICE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I will try to combine my two questions into one now that the Minister is in the House. Canadians are dissatisfied with the Government's reduced postal service. Canada Post employees are also dissatisfied with the cut in service policy of the Government. Why is he doing everything he can to shut down Canada Post with his irresponsible statement?

• (1450)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, service is being increased over the next—

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Where?

Mr. Andre: Over the next four years there will be 6,000 new—

Some Hon. Members: Where?

Mr. Andre: Apparently the Hon. Member is not prepared to listen to my answer.

Mr. Speaker: I have asked Hon. Members to consider carefully that there are a number of questions yet to be asked in the Question Period. We have had two days that have gone very slowly, and it is the exchanges across the Chamber that contribute to that. The Hon. Minister.

Mr. Andre: As I was indicating, Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of Canada Post to open 6,000 new postal outlets in the next four years in an effort to improve the service. What it is endeavouring to do now through management changes, through efficiency, through new productivity and new capital investment, is to ensure that there is dependable service to all Canadians, service in which they can have confidence.

An independent, outside auditing firm that will report to Parliament on a quarterly basis has been hired so that we will have that type of independent source of information to see whether the improved service for which the Post Office is striving will in fact be the result.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—GOVERNMENT OFFER OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for multiculturalism. He is aware that his offer to the National Association of Japanese Canadians of \$12 million for a community fund has been rejected by the Council of the NAJC this past weekend. Does he intend to go to this meeting with the NAJC on June 1 ready to negotiate seriously with the association in the attempt to arrive at a genuine redress package, and to take seriously their responses to his first offer?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that that has been my approach and my attitude since the beginning. It will continue to be my approach and attitude.

RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister, whose Government has found resources of up to a billion dollars at a time to meet important national needs, ensure that the Minister responsible for multiculturalism can go to the meeting on June 1 with the resources to