

Oral Questions

any more than it could have been made in the days of Rhodesia when the revolution toward Zimbabwe was taking place. We think that outside pressure is useful, and we are using what measure of pressure we can to ensure that the elections will be fair. We participated as observers in such an election in Rhodesia. We would be prepared to do the same thing. Certainly the OAS has been invited to do the same thing by President Duarte. I concede that the one-year deadline does seem very short to set up the conditions for a fair election, but I can understand also the government of that country wanting to have the elections as soon as possible so that there be a clear electoral mandate for some government.

The difficulty is not with the fact that time is short. The difficulty is presumably with the parties themselves who do not even see the means of getting together to discuss or to begin to discuss—

Mr. Broadbent: That is why they need a mediator.

Mr. Trudeau: —conditions of such an election.

Well, the hon. member attempted to mediate on behalf of the International Socialist Party, a body much more prestigious than the mere Government of Canada. He knows what—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member knows what success he had. I suggest that when the Leader of the New Democratic Party went to El Salvador, he had behind him the moral authority of a recognized party in a great number of countries. How can he compare that to the mere Secretary of State for External Affairs, the hon. member from Windsor—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: —going to El Salvador? It is not the lack of will. The hon. member's own backbenchers realize that he went there and he drew a dud. That is the reality.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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GRAIN**COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS TO RUSSIA**

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I would like to address my question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of his government's documented reluctance to compensate the farmers fully for the embargo placed on grain sales to the U.S.S.R., further confirmed by the announcement today, I would ask the minister if he would explain to the farmers of Canada and to this House why they should have suffered the cost of 25 per cent to 30 per cent in additional interest; and why it is \$40 million short of any study done by any other economic body, when inflation has removed about \$16 million because of the delay in that payment, so that farmers only receive \$65

million. Finally, why were rye, rape and flax not included in the compensation payments?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am quite sure that the opinion of the west will be different from the opinion indicated here. The amount of \$81 million is certainly a considerable one, and everyone will understand the circumstances, which were quite difficult to assess. There was no effect on the quantities of grains sold last year. The effect was only on the price. There were all kinds of other compensating factors to take into account. On another fact, my hon. friend is wrong, because the assessment the University of Saskatchewan made was at a level of \$71 million, which is certainly less than the amount that the Government of Canada is paying.

Mr. McKnight: Madam Speaker, the compensation was promised by the Conservative government. The farmers would be fully compensated for any loss.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

LEVEL OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): This government has said that a case cannot be made for the producers of rape, rye or flax; but it can make a case for the corn producers and winter wheat producers. As a matter of fact it goes far enough to make a case that the Canadian Olympic Committee suffered a loss by not going to Moscow. The Prime Minister asked for compassion from the banks. How about some compassion from this government for the problems of the farmers? If I could say this, \$81 million, on an average, in western Canada works out to \$400 a farm, which does not buy any more than a ton of nitrogen fertilizer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am surprised by the question because my information is that the off-board sales which have been made through the commercial system will be compensated on the same level as the on-board. That is the information I have.

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**USE OF AGENT ORANGE AT CAMP GAGETOWN**

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. On Tuesday the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a federally financed medical treatment package for Vietnam veterans who suffered the consequences of Agent Orange. As the minister knows, this poison was tested in the Camp Gagetown area prior to its use in Vietnam. Five months ago the minister promised an investigation into the possible effects the tests had on service personnel in the Camp Gagetown area at the time, and also the 5,000