

*Oral Questions***REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION**

MODERNIZATION OF SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The President of the Treasury Board has written to me to confirm that a proposal for funds for the second phase of the modernization of Sydney Steel Corporation has not come before Treasury Board. He also states that before it does, "some outstanding matters must be resolved". Nova Scotians want to know exactly what those outstanding matters are.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and bring it to the attention of the President of the Treasury Board who, I am sure, will provide a detailed response to him.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I want the Deputy Prime Minister to take note of this as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In the context of a "take note" answer like that, I think I have to go to the next Member.

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AGRICULTURE

PRICE OF WHEAT—DEFICIENCY PAYMENT RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The special committee on domestic wheat pricing recognized that even if the Government established a price for domestic wheat it would not solve the income problem of farmers. An additional \$3 per bushel will affect only about 1 per cent of total commodity prices. The committee recommended a deficiency payment. Will the Minister accept that recommendation?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have received three or four questions on this matter, perhaps two or three from the Hon. Member. I have indicated in the House and across the country that a deficiency payment would be one of the options we have to consider.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister's colleagues accept the fact there is a crisis in agriculture and allow him to make a deficiency payment, does he have a plan in place to do so immediately?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if you look at the record the message you should get is that we have always had a plan in place. Indeed, because of our continuing concern about the deteriorating conditions in Canadian agriculture, our attention is focused whole-heartedly

and enthusiastically on a number of options the Government might have to take.

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Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On December 28, 1985, the former Minister, in the company of the Premier of Nova Scotia, said, with reference to the Sysco modernization, "I am here to tell you that it is going. The agreement is there. There should be no doubt now concerning the future of Sysco." In view of this inordinate delay why should the people of Cape Breton believe the modernization will be going ahead?

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, I know there are projects concerning Sysco, but since I do not have the latest information readily available I will be pleased to get in touch with the Hon. Member and give him the full details at the earliest opportunity.

[English]

Mr. Dingwall: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I am in the same difficulty. I think that is a "take note" answer.

An Hon. Member: He is the Acting Minister.

Mr. Speaker: All right, in that context, a supplementary question.

FUNDING OF MODERNIZATION

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): In view of the fact that the Prime Minister made a commitment in the summer of 1984 concerning the modernization of Sysco and 22 months have elapsed without delivering on that commitment, will the Minister undertake that moneys will be provided for the modernization, and approved by Treasury Board before we recess for the summer?

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, 16 years went by before the Liberals decided to do something in Cape Breton, thus depriving the community of hundreds of millions of dollars. In the past year this Government has made important decisions about Cape Breton. We have drafted plans to boost employment in eastern Canada, in the Atlantic provinces.