

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be aware of the fact that, while the Soviet Union has made the meaningless gesture of returning the note, neither our concern nor our claim will melt away like a seven-day wonder.

**Some Hon. Members:** It was not a meaningless gesture.

**Mr. Regan:** Rather, we intend to pursue our claim in that regard. The Hon. Member will recall that the Soviet Union originally rejected the claim for compensation made at the time the satellite Cosmos disintegrated and fell into Canadian territory. I point to that incident as a precedent with relation to their initial reaction.

Specifically, the Government will not only reiterate its position again to the Soviet Union but it will pursue its actions through ICAO, meetings of which are being held in Montreal at the present time, and whatever other measures appear to be appropriate.

REQUEST THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST SOVIET UNION BE  
INCREASED

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs who surely will recall that 269 souls lost their lives in the shooting down of this aircraft. It is not simply a bit of metal, which is what the Minister's comparison referred to. Would the Minister indicate what, in concrete terms, the Government will do to step up the sanctions against the Soviet Union, and as well applying them to Iron Curtain countries that appear to be supporting the Soviet Union, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, at the Security Council of the United Nations, and now at ICAO in Montreal? Would the Minister say specifically if he is prepared to do something about stopping the flights to Gander, and will he stop the flights of the Polish airline LOT through Mirabel and the Czechoslovakian airline CSA through Mirabel, airlines which are simply circumventing the present restrictions on Aeroflot?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Mr. Speaker, I fear that the honourable and distinguished Member, with his new assignment as critic for foreign affairs, would perhaps need to consider very carefully whether the reaction of the Government should be against other countries than the country that caused the infraction, the U.S.S.R. I believe that that would be a very unwise policy for us to follow. Rather, we will continue to make strong demands against the Soviet Union for compensation.

I would point out to the Hon. Member that Canada was the first country to take sanctions and that it has taken stronger sanctions than other countries in relation to this matter, partly because of the fact that the lives of ten Canadian citizens were lost in this disaster. I do find the position taken by the Hon. Member strange in view of the fact that his initial reaction was that Canada should not over-react and should do nothing to damage the disarmament talks.

*Official Report*

**FARM CREDIT CORPORATION**

LEVEL OF FUNDING ALLOWED BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Provencher, and is directed to the Minister of Finance. Farmers have never had as much trouble when trying to finance their operations as they are having now. Legislation that was passed in the House last Spring allowed for borrowings by the FCC from the money markets of the world of up to \$600 million. The Government saw fit to cut that back to \$250 million. Why did the Minister of Finance cut that back?

● (1200)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I cut nothing back. The legislation the Hon. Member refers to is the maximum authorization. I want to remind the Hon. Member that we have provided to the FCC this year larger funds than it ever had in its whole history. I think that is a pretty good record of our concern for the farmers of this country.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) has served notice on the Chair of a point of order.

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**OFFICIAL REPORT**

EDITORIAL CHANGES MADE TO ORIGINAL TEXT

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, the point of order I have for your consideration arises out of the remarks in a statement made yesterday by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) which in itself was generated by an exchange during the Question Period last Tuesday.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) asks where the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) is; he is unavoidably absent today with commitments of long standing.

**An Hon. Member:** And the day before.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The statement was based on an exchange arising out of an exchange between the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) and the Leader of the Opposition last Tuesday. The root of it lies in the allegation by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton that alterations were made in *Hansard*, something which I have always considered to be a very serious matter.

Before embarking on the substance of the point—I see the Minister of National Health and Welfare in her seat—I can assure her, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, that he has always had the highest respect for that Minister, who I see is leaving the House now. I can assure her that that is backed up by the several telephone calls that the Leader of the Opposition has made to her office, which I am sure her staff has informed her about, in the hope that she would—I see the