

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE USE OF LOW-SULPHUR WESTERN COAL BY ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Can the Deputy Prime Minister advise the House whether he has been able to arrange a meeting with Premier Peterson of Ontario to discuss with him the use of low-sulphur western coal to reduce acid rain emissions by Ontario Hydro? Will he also advise the House if our Government is prepared to subsidize the transportation of western coal to Ontario?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as of two o'clock this afternoon I had not been able to arrange a meeting with the Premier of Ontario. I am surprised that he has taken such a nonchalant approach to such a very important issue. I am surprised since it is a very important national issue in terms of jobs, economic activity and, above all, the containment of acid rain. I thought he would have been right up front and centre.

With regard to transportation and the prospect of subsidization, perhaps the Liberal Party in Ontario and in Ottawa could get their acts together and pass Bill C-18 which would go a long way in reducing transportation costs for all Canadians.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

SIZE OF DEFICIT—EFFECT OF UNITED STATES LEGISLATION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He will know how shocked western Canadians were to learn of the \$200 million deficit experienced by the Canadian Wheat Board, and how dismayed they are at the cavalier attitude taken by the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board who says that it is simply a unique event. He does not recognize how the U.S. Farm Bill is thrusting prices down. When will the Government take sincerely the free fall that we are now experiencing in grain prices due to the U.S. Farm Bill? When will we create a high priority requirement to meet with the Reagan administration to stop the impact of the Farm Bill? Will we be asking Vice-President Bush to come back to Canada for another earful, this time of good Canadian feed barley?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the Hon. Member referring to the actions of the Government as being cavalier when we proposed a \$1 billion farm aid package for the grain and oil seed producers of Canada. It is the biggest aid package that has ever been proposed in direct response to the difficulties in the international market-place.

Oral Questions

The \$200 million deficit in the Canadian Wheat Board is a further \$200 million that can be added to aid the Canadian grain and oil seed producers.

On the international front, the Hon. Member should be aware that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary of State for External Affairs dealt with this issue during the GATT process. The Hon. Member is always complimenting the role of GATT in these sorts of matters, which is the mechanism by which it is most appropriately dealt with. I would have thought that we would have had his support in that regard.

● (1440)

REQUEST FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES DISCUSSIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The fact remains that the free fall in grain prices is largely as a result of the United States Farm Bill which ratchets prices down an average of 15 or 20 per cent a year. When will the Government have some sense of urgency to bring that to a halt, and put it on the agenda with the United States before our western grain economy is destroyed? We are talking about the destruction of the western grain economy. It does not behoove the Deputy Prime Minister to treat it in this way when the livelihoods of so many farmers are at stake. Will that matter be raised with President Reagan or the Vice-President to bring to their attention the need for a long-term solution, which means the total abolition of the United States Farm Bill measure?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Hon. Member is behind the times. This matter has been raised, it will continue to be raised not only with the United States but with the EEC, and throughout the GATT process.

In addition to that, in the meantime we are trying to cushion the impact of these disastrous prices on the hands of the farmers. There is a price war going on between the United States and the EEC. There are two parties involved. We are addressing this issue on all fronts.

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AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

FUTURE OF INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the continuing concern in Manitoba over discrepancies in statements made by the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare, and the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources over the future of the aerospace industry in Canada.