

Introduction of Bills

Mr. de Jong: I am afraid that that answer is not good enough for the farmers of Saskatchewan.

RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that the past agreement has expired. The Minister also knows that every day which passes without the announcement of that program means there will be no soil conservation projects in Saskatchewan this year. It is getting too late. In fact for most farmers it is already too late. There have been dust storms in Saskatchewan; last week in my constituency there were dust storms. We need this program.

Could the Minister explain what earthly reason there is that that program has not been announced in order that there can be soil conservation programs this year?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the program was announced in 1987. It is now 1989. We have the proposal on our desks right now and we are examining it.

I will simply tell the Hon. Member that we are going to do this right to ensure that it complies with the criteria. As soon as that examination is complete, we will take the necessary action.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

REQUEST FOR STUDY

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. During the last federal election many constituents in my riding, and indeed across the country, complained of not being enumerated.

When will the Deputy Prime Minister appoint a commission to study reform of the Elections Act?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the Hon. Member's question, the Chief Electoral Officer made the point very clearly that had the provisions of the Bill tabled before the House in the last Parliament been approved, 85 per cent or 95 per cent of the problems would have been cured.

The Opposition wanted to inject other items into that particular piece of legislation upon which there could be no agreement. As a result many Canadians were denied the opportunity to vote.

We are examining that issue very closely to see whether in fact we can bring in emergency legislation to deal with that particular issue. Today we are also looking very closely at the terms of reference for the commission, as well as names of people who could conduct it.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AGRICULTURE

FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the first report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture concerning Bill C-7, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (*pari-mutuel* betting).

This is the first Bill reported to this Session of Parliament. The speed of its return is a mark of the industry of the committee and, indeed, of our excellent clerks and researchers.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON CONFERENCE OF
SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 34 I have the duty to present to the House a report, in both official languages, on the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Parliaments, held in Malta on March 27 and March 28, 1989.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]