

Oral Questions

Mr. Murphy: We do want our Government to be saying the same thing all across this land and at international conferences.

What is the position of this Government? Does it have a right to implement International Labour Organization covenants, which it has always stated that it has not the right to do? Will it reverse its case time after time whenever it is convenient? What is the legal position of this Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, is the socialist Party arguing that the federal Parliament and the Government of Canada have the right to conclude international treaties, but are dispossessed of any rights in respect of their implementation? If my hon. friend is saying that, I want to tell him on behalf of Canadians—

Mr. Murphy: That is what your Government has been saying.

Mr. Broadbent: That is what you have been saying in Geneva.

Mr. Mulroney:—and on behalf of this Government, and on behalf of the people in the Parliament of Canada that this Government and this Parliament speak for Canada, all Canada. This is what we have done, and this is what we will do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: In view of the time, I should advise that the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell has indicated his co-operation in asking a single question, which will be followed by a question from the Hon. Member for Pembina.

Mr. Crosbie: One too many.

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CANADA LANDS COMPANY

SECURITY SURVEILLANCE CONTRACT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I will ignore that remark from the Minister of Transport, and I will ask a question of the Minister of Public Works. It concerns the management and disposition of property by the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel, and I know that this is embarrassing for the Government.

Yesterday, in answer to my question concerning the deficiencies in a report of an internal audit by Louise St. Laurent, the Minister stated that there was no wrongdoing—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell has the floor, and he is entitled to the usual courtesies.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister stated that there was no wrongdoing at Mirabel, and that everything at the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel was clean.

Does this mean that the Minister personally approves of a beer parlour receiving an untendered contract to do security surveillance of vacant lots at a cost of \$42,000? Is this the Government's position?

If so, I would like to tell the Minister that it is small wonder that the people of Canada do not think much of the competence of this Government to run the affairs of the country.

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I refer to the report of the Auditor General who made no adverse comment about any wrongdoing at Mirabel.

Let me refer to a portion of the report of the special audit division of Public Works Canada which states the following:

To achieve its mandate the new management of the Corporation followed management practices and controls examined during this review. In the areas of Land Sales and Agricultural Renewal a structured and controlled process was put in place in accordance with Treasury Board terms and conditions and regularly monitored by Central Agencies. The Corporation complied with the approved process and produced complete documentation in support of decisions and approvals.

I think that says it all, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL GRAINS PROGRAM—TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday a very positive announcement was made with regard to the Special Grains Program. When will that Special Grains Program come into effect?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his surprise question. Yesterday I was honoured on behalf of the Government of Canada to announce a deficiency payment to grains producers in Canada of \$1.1 billion, the largest—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1510)

Mr. Mulroney: In excess of some \$800 million will be in the pockets of farmers by March 31, 1988. Among other things, a major series of initiatives was announced to render more secure the status of the Canadian farm, the family farm, and the plight of the Canadian farmer in a multitude of ways.

We announced initiatives yesterday which we think put the proper spotlight and the proper degree of attention on all Canadian farmers who do so much for the country.