

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I will answer the Hon. Member in the following manner.

The de Grandpré Report has allocated a couple of chapters to the agricultural industry and of course the recommendations are being considered.

It is important for any adjustments that may be necessary to be made in full co-operation with the industry. We have had ongoing discussions with the various marketing agencies, Agriculture Canada, and indeed with the provinces.

I welcome the Hon. Member's interest. I am sure that we will be pleased to invite his participation in this process as well.

## SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, we believe that the de Grandpré recommendations respecting agriculture are the greatest betrayal to our farming communities since Confederation.

Will the Minister not agree that the supply managed industries have been organized and comply well with GATT rules? Will he not today stand in his place and completely reject the recommendations as they relate to supply managed commodities in Canada?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** I not sure what part of the report the Hon. Member read, or whether he understood the report. As I read it, the de Grandpré commission fully endorsed the concept of supply management, as we do on this side of the House and as we do as a Government. We have never deviated from that.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You haven't read it.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I have read it. I have the two chapters right here in my hand.

The fact of the matter is that the supply management system is in place. What we have to do as a Government and as an industry is to ensure that the systems are preserved and enhanced to take into consideration the realities of the international market-place.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## SOVIET UNION—PLIGHT OF REFUSNIK

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week I met with refusenik, Mrs. Samoilovich, in Moscow. Her husband George, who is 66 years of age, is dying of cancer. The British Embassy in Moscow extended an invitation for him to be treated at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, but he still has not received his visa.

I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he would intervene in this particular case with the Soviet authorities?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall.

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## VIA RAIL

## PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I would like to ask him why he made such a fallacious statement about the ridership on VIA Rail, and why did he want to mislead the Canadian public?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Benoit Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** All I have to say about VIA Rail and what I have to say concerning the various Crown corporations and the decisions to be made is that they will come at the appropriate time.

[*English*]

## FUTURE OF PASSENGER SERVICE

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the Prime Minister would not want to answer, so I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Transport.

Will the Minister now lift the veil of uncertainty from VIA which was created by the Prime Minister, and reassure the Canadian public that there will continue to be good, comfortable, and efficient rail service in this country?

**Hon. Benoit Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I just told my friend that the decision will be made in due course, and that is still the same answer.