

## AGRICULTURE

### FARM INCOME CRISIS IN WESTERN CANADA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 13 last by the Honourable Senator Olson respecting Agriculture—Farm Income Crisis in Western Canada—Government Action.

*(The answer follows:)*

To set the record straight between 1981 and 1984, when the Liberal Party was in power, net realized farm income averaged \$3.1 billion per year. In the last five years that average of realized net income has risen to over \$4 billion, an increase of 30 per cent over the Liberal years.

In terms of direct assistance, between 1981 and 1984 under the Liberals some \$500 million in direct assistance was provided. Between 1985 and 1989 some \$2.5 billion in direct assistance was provided. That is more than a fourfold increase.

While there has been a slight drop from the record high incomes of 1988, 1989 came in just slightly below the 1988 figures, but significantly higher as compared to the original projections.

The Minister of Agriculture would also like to remind the honourable senators that the crop is not in the ground yet and there are a lot of considerations to take into account.

Minister Mazankowski, met with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool on December 13, and discussed the situation.

As the Prime Minister said, to be quite frank about it, this government has provided \$21.7 billion worth of federal assistance to the farmers of Canada in the last five years. We stood with the farmers then. We are standing with them now, and we will stand with them in the future.

## THE SENATE

### DECLARATION BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON PROVINCIAL STATUTES BEING INTRA VIRES

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 20 last by the Honourable Senator Olson regarding The Senate—Declaration by Minister of Justice on Provincial Statutes being Intra Vires.

*(The answer follows:)*

The procedure of the examination and reporting on statutes by the Department of Justice was instituted pursuant to instructions contained in a Council Minute of June 8, 1868. At the end of each session of its legislature, a province would send to the Governor General authenticated copies of all acts passed during the session. The Department of Justice would review the provincial acts

upon their receipt and an order in council would be issued on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice either advising that the power of disallowance would not be exercised or disallowing a provincial act. No provincial act has been disallowed since April 7, 1943. The procedure of examination and review was ended by a Minute of Council P.C. 1983-3439 of 3 November, 1983, enacted on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice. Provincial attorneys-general were notified of this by letters dated November 15, 1983 from the Minister of Justice.

## PARLIAMENT

### CLOSURE OF EAST BLOCK CAFETERIA, PARLIAMENT HILL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 19 last by the Honourable Senator Robichaud regarding Parliament—Closure of East Block Cafeteria, Parliament Hill—Government Position.

*(The answer follows:)*

I would like to confirm with the honourable senator that decisions regarding government cutbacks announced by Minister de Cotret were made by the Internal Economy Committee in the other place.

## PRIVATE BILL

### EASTERN SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA—SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Macquarrie, seconded by the Honourable Senator MacDonald (*Halifax*), for the second reading of the Bill S-11, An Act to restructure the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America under the name of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.—(*Honourable Senator Frith*).

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, any questions there might be on the subject of this bill would be best dealt with in committee. Therefore, I recommend that we give it second reading and send it to the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs today.

**Hon. Heath Macquarrie:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Macquarrie speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

**Senator Macquarrie:** Honourable senators, I am duly warned and chastened, and I am grateful to Senator Frith. I also appreciate the interest which senators have shown privately to me in this very important matter. Being mindful of rule