

ranch, was told by the Supreme Court that her contribution was "only what was expected of any wife".

Three years ago when the Charter of Rights was enacted to enshrine equality in our laws for all claimants, women had to fight relentlessly to ensure that the wording of the Charter would in fact grant them equal rights. The battle to ensure equality for women in interpreting the laws of the land now falls to the Supreme Court under the Charter.

As evidence of its intention to achieve a more just balance on the Supreme Court, and a broader perspective on issues affecting over half of the population, I and my colleagues in the New Democratic Party urge the Government to appoint a woman to fill the present vacancy.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately the Hon. Member's time has expired.

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HORTICULTURE

EFFECT OF WINE TAXES ON GRAPE INDUSTRY

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, where and when does making progress mean going backward? Ask the Ontario grape growers. Increased investment and careful plantings in Niagara brought record tonnages of the highest quality wine grapes. The wineries responded by earning recognition around the world. Domestic wineries supplied 52 per cent of the domestic market. Jobs were provided by some 16,000 persons.

However, what are the prospects for this year and the next for what should be a Canadian growth industry? Whoever heard of stimulating an industry by taxing it at 120 per cent, continuing an oppressive, inequitable tax on the domestic product? Our share of the market has dropped 20 per cent. Wineries have already had lay-offs. Employment is expected to be down 15 per cent from last year.

The grape and wine industry was able to establish the dumping of subsidized wine products in this country. Wines are being landed in North America at prices between 40 per cent and 80 per cent below prices in the countries of their origin. Yet it was determined that our industry was not hurting enough. How badly does our industry have to hurt before the Government will face up to the challenge of Italy and France dumping their surplus products in this country? No sales mean no harvest, no jobs, and, ultimately, no fruitlands.

How does the Government expect to preserve and protect—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has, unfortunately, expired.

Oral Questions

WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

SIZE OF ANNOUNCED PAY-OUT

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, proposed amendments to the Western Grain Stabilization Act announced recently by the Minister of Agriculture fall far short of what is required. For more than a year the Progressive Conservative Party has sought changes to the Act in order to trigger a pay-out to farmers, yet it has taken until now for the Minister to propose something.

In the first place, his proposals will not result in a pay-out until October, even though farmers need the money now. Second, individual producers are not sure how much they will receive. It is clear, however, that most of them will not get back anywhere near as much as they have paid into the fund over the past years. Certainly the pay-out will provide some relief. However, with the average farm debt load in excess of \$200,000, it is not about to solve the economic problems of western grain farmers, especially in light of recent cuts in initial grain prices.

If the Minister were truly committed to helping western producers, he would have persuaded his colleagues to authorize an interim payment. As one elevator agent told me this past weekend, Manitoba farmers are bitterly disappointed by this proposal for a meagre and belated pay-out, and it certainly has done nothing to alter their opinion about a Government which has ignored them for far too long.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

DE HAVILLAND—PAYMENT OF BONUSES TO SENIOR EXECUTIVES

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue in his capacity of replying in the House to questions about the Canada Development Investment Corporation. The day after Parliament recessed for the Easter break we learned that substantial bonuses totalling \$155,000 had been paid to 12 senior executives of the Crown corporation, de Havilland. Just a few days before that, it had been announced that hundreds of workers were going to be laid off by de Havilland, and that others would be asked to take cutbacks of one kind or another.

The Canadian people want to know how the Government can justify these bonuses being paid to already highly paid senior executives of de Havilland, when rank and file workers are being threatened with cutbacks and lay-offs.

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon. Member and the