

S.O. 21

Budget cuts announced last November by the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) stopped a Canadian Wildlife Service study of whether or not aerial spraying of Delta Methrin would endanger millions of waterfowl that start life on prairie sloughs. A partially completed National Research Council review of the chemical was also scrapped. When will the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) announce that which he has promised several times, the pest management advisory board, so that he may listen to advice on health and environmental consequences from officials of other Departments?

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FORESTRY**IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMY**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, was named Forestry Capital of Canada for 1985-86. The honour draws to the attention of the nation Prince Albert's long dependency on forestry and its present contribution to the industry.

Along with other Prince Albertans, I had the honour of welcoming the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew) to Prince Albert. We thanked the Minister for his visit and called upon him to impress upon his colleagues the importance of forestry in our economy, and to recognize that we are dangerously close to a crisis because of government neglect of our forests.

The federal Government spends less than 20 per cent of the funds it receives from the industry on replenishment of the forests and on research into the care of the forests. Our forests are suffering from acid rain, lack of replanting, and lack of intensive silviculture. We are devastating our own future by our neglect of the forests.

Members of the New Democratic Party call upon the Government to pass a national Forestry Act which would establish a legal base for forestry care and an instrument for making sure that our children, and our children's children, will have use of this wonderful resource with which we in Canada are blessed.

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*[Translation]***WOMEN****HOMEMAKERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY**

Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, in the area of social equality between men and women, this Government is fully aware of the problems involved and there is no doubt that concrete actions have been taken and certainly will be pursued further.

As we must point out for the record, Mr. Speaker, it would be an error to underestimate any longer the role of the person

in charge of domestic tasks and to ignore her economic contribution, for the only reason that this is, no "employment" as traditionally defined. Homemakers who made legitimate choices justified by their relationship with their spouses should not be penalized economically because most women now make choices that are different.

Mr. Speaker, more and more men share the following vision, and I quote:

Equality of women now and in the future is basically the opportunity to choose and the assurance that they are not less privileged than men because of their choice, and they receive for their contribution the same benefits as men, quite apart from the context of "chosen employment".

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*[English]***WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT****REVIEW OF PROVISIONS URGED**

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, as prairie farmers know, recent amendments to the Western Grain Stabilization Act introduced by the Government brought about a record interim payment this spring. This \$450-million payout was a welcome injection of capital into the western economy, and is allowing thousands of western producers to put seeds into the ground this season.

Looking now to the future, many producers know that the program must undergo further changes if it is to play a more effective role in stabilizing prairie grain farm incomes. I have noted, as have many producers, that the program is not always as sensitive as it might be to regional crop differences. For example, some producers who had bumper crops last season collected the same interim payment this year as did producers who had very poor crops. Yet in other years payouts were not triggered even though it was clear that prairie grain farm incomes in specific regions were in need of a stabilizing influence.

The program has been around for 10 years, and I believe a review at this time could be very healthy. I commend the Minister responsible for recognizing past deficiencies in the program, and for rectifying them. I now call upon the same Minister to continue the process of updating the Act so that the program becomes more relevant to the producers it serves.

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HELSINKI ACCORDS**OTTAWA CONFERENCE—ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, in Helsinki, Finland, in 1975, 35 nations solemnly signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Since that time regular meetings have been held to review the implementation of the Accords, by the signatory states. At the Madrid conference the former Liberal Govern-