

Interparliamentary Delegation Report

Mr. Bouchard: Yes.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Minister does not understand the Act and I suggest that he read it. It is not insured earnings. Therefore premiums are not deducted from it. Since there are not 20 insured weeks of earnings in the previous 52 weeks, a new claim cannot be established. Therefore, the worker loses, and in some cases his benefits are reduced.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is with regret that I must advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Madam Speaker, this is going to be very straightforward. Our 35,000 early retirees have just won a splendid victory, no thanks to the Conservative Government. They had to work hard for it. And as for the next 75,000, Madam Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please! The Hon. Member knows perfectly well he is starting debate, not raising a point of order.

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[*English*]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PRESENTATION OF FIFTEENTH REPORT OF CANADIAN NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to present to the House the fifteenth report of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association, in both official languages.

[*Editor's Note: See Today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall all notices of motions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement this day's sitting will be extended by 18 minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY— PRESERVATION OF FAMILY FARMS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma) moved:

That this House, recognizing the serious plight of Canadian farmers due to record low world prices for grain and other commodities, calls on the government to make a commitment now to farmers:

- (a) to ensure that their returns on grain in the new crop year will at least equal the levels of the 1986-87 crop year;
- (b) to maintain the current freeze on grain freight rates charged to farmers;
- (c) to reduce farm input costs through methods that include measures to deal with high chemical prices; and
- (d) in view of the worsening farm debt crisis, to provide greater assistance to preserve the family farm as the primary means of production and a vital part of rural Canadian life.

He said: Madam Speaker, the motion before us today is designed to call attention to the desperate situation we see in Canadian agriculture today, especially in the grain sector of that industry. While the vast majority of the grain sector is centred in the Prairie Provinces, there is grain production in all parts of the country. The motion urges the Government to take certain action to alleviate the situation.

● (1600)

Two weeks ago yesterday it became known that grain prices would drop by some 20 per cent in the coming crop year. That is on top of a 19 per cent or 20 per cent reduction last year. It hit the western agricultural community as effectively as a lightning bolt hitting every prairie community. Nothing could have been more cataclysmic for the western agriculture economy. At that time the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, of which the prairie pools are an integral part and important member, was meeting in Hull. The indication that grain prices would drop by 20 per cent fell like a devastating thud on the floor of that convention meeting in Hull.