

S. O. 31

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with the employees of the James Bay Corporation and of the municipality of James Bay to get these facilities which will be useful to James Bay and Quebec workers.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, 16,000 steel workers remain out of work, 10 weeks and counting.

The trade minister said yesterday with regard to two negative free trade panel rulings that "you can't win them all". Mr. Speaker, we have not and will not win any of these rulings.

While the dispute lingers, American producers begin to assume a greater and greater share of our Canadian producers' market. Despite the animosities created by the labour dispute, Stelco president, Fred Telmer, and USWA director, Leo Gerard, agree that high interest rates and the resultant high Canadian dollar are decimating the steel industry.

It is not just the steel industry, Mr. Speaker, but all of the manufacturing sector is in a freefall: employment is down 6.4 per cent over the third quarter of 1989.

Even if the playing field were level, we would be playing on two separate fields. Canadian steelworkers, producers—all Canadians—are asking this government for assistance.

Lower the interest rates.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak on behalf of the grain producers of Brandon—Souris in particular and of the west in general who are suffering from a severe cash flow crisis.

Although the crops in much of the west were better than average, the combination of reduced grain prices and low delivery quotas means that the farmers in my constituency have had little or no cash flow to date. Meanwhile their obligations to their creditors must be met.

• (1410)

Although the export price for grain is essentially beyond our control due to the continuing insane policies of the EEC and the U.S.A. to subsidize export sales, and as delivery quotas may not improve until Russia and China begin to buy, the federal government can and should assist grain farmers by agreeing to restore interest-free cash advances for the current crop year.

Although the cost to the federal treasury may be as high as \$50 million or more, we as a government should act now to assist grain producers financially, just as we have done in the past.

The need is great and the time to respond is now.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, at this moment in the other place my colleagues in the Liberal Party of Canada are valiantly defending the rights of Canadian men and women and resisting with all their might the imposition of the goods and services tax.

Their cause is the cause of the people of Canada because the people of Canada do not want the GST. Nonetheless, they face a barrage of opposition from the government opposite and yes, from the New Democratic Party, the waffling, wishy-washy New Democrats who are determined to shamelessly scale new heights of hypocrisy and perform new feats of political opportunism. They demand one day that the Senate be abolished, the next day the NDP suggests rather sheepishly no doubt that the Senate stop the GST. Where does the New Democratic Party stand? Who knows? They cannot make up their minds.

What is important is that all Canadians know where Jean Chrétien and the Liberal Party of Canada stand. We stand beside Canadians, ordinary Canadians, Canadians who are fighting back, Canadians who work for a living and are struggling to put food on the table, Canadians who want to axe the tax and kill the GST.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired. The hon. member for Mercier.