

In the meantime, the member should know what we have said, which is that we are going to do the very best we can to support our farmers to get them through this very difficult period.

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INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, International Nickel Company of Canada announced yesterday the elimination of 600 jobs in Sudbury. This government's high dollar and high interest policy savages an industry already facing other difficulties. I ask the Prime Minister: will he instruct his finance minister to put an end to this government's disastrous economic and fiscal policies.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is very much aware that the International Nickel Company sells nickel all around the world and the reduction in orders it has had is a result of a world-wide effect in the nickel market primarily related to difficulties in the automotive industry.

I am not happy at all when I see 600 people being laid off there, but I have to recognize that it is not just a problem in Canada, it is an international problem. We in Canada have to understand how we can help those people who are being laid off and that will be done as a result of the policies that are already in place from this government.

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, originally the announcement two months ago was for 200 jobs. On September 9, they announced it would increase the number to 400 jobs. And today it has been increased to 600 jobs. Meanwhile, the value of the dollar has kept on increasing.

The people of Sudbury, the people of Canada, ask when will it end. When will the Prime Minister and his government listen to Canadians, stop the de-industrialization of our country and bring forward new economic policies?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I repeat my point that Government of Canada policies cannot do much about the world-wide

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glut of nickel that is in place in the United States and other countries of the world. That is not something we can control.

My hon. friend referred to some aspects of government policy. We have seen interest rates in this country fall about 5.5 percentage points since May of last year, at the peak. We have seen a narrowing in the spreads between interest rates in Canada and the United States. This is designed to help the economic recovery that is under way now, as my hon. friend is very much aware. We have seen an improvement in economic performance in the second quarter of this year by 5 per cent in annual terms. So we are getting back on track again. The policies we will be implementing in the future will reinforce that process.

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IRAQ

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Earlier this year the UN Under-Secretary General described conditions in post-war Iraq as near apocalyptic and found that Iraqi children had stopped growing, due to lack of food.

A Harvard medical team said that over 55,000 children under five had died because of poor diet, sanitary conditions and lack of medical care.

My question to the Prime Minister is this: What concrete urgent action is our government taking as a war-time coalition partner to assist dying children in Iraq, and to ensure particularly at this time, that Canadian wheat sales to Iraq resume now.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government is, of course, very concerned about the loss of life anywhere. Through humanitarian agencies under the auspices of the United Nations, Canada has made what we believe are significant contributions to be of assistance.

I think the greatest thing that could happen on behalf of the children of Iraq, and on behalf of the people of Iraq, would be if Saddam Hussein stopped acting like an international outlaw and conducted himself in such a way as to return to the international community. Then, and only then, will all of the people of Iraq find the peace and the prosperity to which they are entitled.