

S.O. 21

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

PENSION REFORM

AREAS OF PROVINCIAL CONSENSUS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the federal and provincial Governments began the process of reviewing the pension systems not only in the private sector but in the public sector as well. During those 10 years there have been several commissions on the subject. There has been a parliamentary task force. There have been individual task forces set up by the federal Government and, in some cases, by provincial Governments.

A year ago, after the parliamentary task force had met and presented its viewpoints to the Government, there seemed to be a degree of consensus in the country on the way in which we should undertake pension reform. However, since that time there have been delaying tactics which we did not envisage at the beginning. That led to a provincial conference in June of last year at which the provincial Ministers responsible for pension reform reviewed the various scenarios. On November 1 and 2 they met with their officials, and yesterday the Ministers met again in Toronto.

There are areas in which a consensus has been reached. Those areas include eligibility criteria for full-time and part-time workers, minimum employer contributions, pre-retirement and post-retirement survivor benefits, among many. In addition, the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario, Larry Grossman, has indicated that in the event that total consensus cannot be arrived at by February—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, considering that the new Conservative Government is a corporately-oriented Government, we felt it appropriate that a quarterly report be presented.

A statement released by Brian Mulroney in Halifax on August 2, 1984, said: "A P.C. Government will set up an industry-government panel to produce a new and positive role for Canertech to play in advancing renewable energy and conservation." Canertech is now being wound up.

In the election it was promised, in reply to a Friends of the Earth questionnaire that "a P.C. Government will promote a phased and orderly completion of the National Parks system." The economic statement cut \$19.5 million from planned spending in the National Parks.

In the election the Conservatives promised to "establish a new Department of Forestry at the federal level". That was in the P.C. Campaign Handbook, at page 49. Rather than create a separate Department, a junior Minister has been appointed in the Department of Agriculture.

In the election the Conservatives promised to rebate fuel taxes to farmers. They have done so, but only for three years.

The Conservatives promised to give the Auditor General Cabinet documents relating to Petro-Canada's takeover of Petrofina. They are now continuing Liberal stonewalling.

The Conservatives promised open government, and then announced a communications management strategy which places new restrictions on the right of public servants to talk to the public, the media, and Members of Parliament.

The Conservatives opposed the 1 per cent increase in the federal sales tax announced in the last Budget, and then implemented the tax increase themselves.

In the election the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) promised federal funding for a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island. She now says no money is available.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

ANXIETY OF FRANCO-MANITOBAN COMMUNITY OVER CBC BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

Mr. Leo Duguay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my constituents in St. Boniface reacted very favourably to the economic and financial message presented in the House on November 8 of this year.

However, I would like to point out that the Franco-Manitoban community is concerned about the proposed budgetary cutbacks for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The CBC's French network is the only national network serving Francophone communities outside Quebec. Local and regional programming is absolutely essential for the people of St. Boniface and for all Franco-Manitobans.

Local TV programs on CBWFT take up less than five hours per week, so that any cuts would be disastrous.