

S.O. 21

came personally to explain their positions and make representations.

Last year, nine out of fourteen cases were dealt with satisfactorily, while the remaining ones are well on their way to being solved. We intend to repeat this experiment next year for the benefit of all individuals living in the ridings represented by the group of Liberal Members from the Quebec south shore.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

NEW EVALUATION OF FARM LAND SOUGHT

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, I would like to address a topic of concern which was brought to my attention by the Prince Edward Island Women in Support of Agriculture, regarding farm evaluation. In their annual meeting held on April 13, 1983, the Women in Support of Agriculture passed a resolution which stated:

Whereas farm evaluation has not been revised since 1971, and whereas the rate of inflation, having escalated in the past 12 years, if a farmer sells his farm in 1983 the capital gains tax will be exorbitant, be it resolved that we approach our Members of Parliament and our Members of the Legislative Assembly to request a new evaluation, and by so doing have the capital gains tax lowered.

I support this resolution 100 per cent, Madam Speaker, and feel that capital gains tax should not be assessed to farmers. The policy of the Progressive Conservative Party in the elections of 1979 and 1980 stated that the first \$200,000 would not be taxed for capital gains on the sale of a farm.

I join with the P.E.I. Women in Support of Agriculture in urging a new evaluation of farm land, considering how land prices have soared due to inflation since 1971, the last evaluation year. If a farmer sells his land today, his capital gains tax will be exorbitant. I urge that this escalating situation be corrected as the agricultural system is being adversely effected by high property taxes and high capital gains tax. I urge that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) realize the importance of this issue.

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NEW EMPLOYMENT EXPANSION AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

EMPLOYMENT OF OBSERVERS ON FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, my colleagues have spoken several times before in this House, denouncing the Government's abuse of the NEED Program. Obviously their words were not heeded, because this abuse continues to spread. In a couple of weeks the over-the-side herring sale program will be getting under way in the Bay of Fundy. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans traditionally provides observers on the foreign vessels whose owners are here to buy fish from our fishermen. This year, however, those

observers are not being rehired. Instead these duties will be performed by workers on a NEED grant.

The lion's share of the work done by these observers is troubleshooting any problems which arise between our fishermen and the foreign vessel owners. This kind of work requires a 24-hour a day commitment for extended periods, in unfamiliar and sometimes hostile and unpleasant conditions. Can we really expect the recipients of NEED funds to put up with these kinds of conditions for only \$200 per week? It is quite possible that many of them do not know they are getting into. A similar program tried a few months ago with Canadian offshore vessels fell apart after a couple of weeks because many of the participants resigned after they found out what the conditions were like.

The Government is using the NEED Program to replace higher paid skilled workers with lower paid untrained ones. It is becoming a restraint program, not a job-creation program. In this case our fishing industry could suffer seriously.

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MINERS' MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATION OF CAPE BRETON'S MINING HISTORY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, as the sitting Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond, an area proud of its coal mining tradition, we approach Miners' Memorial Day, on Saturday, June 11, 1983, with a sense of pride and a sense of sorrow. On this date we are reminded of the history of coal mining in Cape Breton and of the role coal mining has played in the shaping of our community. Mining on the Island dates back to 1720. Many technological advances have evolved since then. While mining methods have changed over the years, the unique qualities of the miner, which can be best described in one word, courageous, have not.

The struggle of the miner has not been without adversity. We remember the fight to bring in the United Mines Workers of America and the infamous strike of 1909-1910; the six years of protest culminating in the strike of 1925 and the tragic death of William Davis, killed 58 years ago; the Number 12 mine explosion of 1917, and more recently, the explosion in 1979. Over the years there have been triumphs and disasters. At this time we remember the contributions made by all miners and their families, and honour those who lost their lives.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

DEMAND FOR ACCOUNTABILITY TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, Crown Corporations were brought into life with the