

*Oral Questions*

the same time as it has called on all Canadians to accept sacrifice as the price of recovery.

We have discovered that Canadian Pacific and Canadian National have increased executive salaries up to 35.5 per cent, and averaging 20.7 per cent, at the same time as the federal Government has introduced six and five legislation for the workers at CP and CN.

In the spirit of sharing the burden of the recovery, this Party calls upon the Government to abandon its survival of the fittest theory which is used to rationalize the programs of the Government, and calls upon the Government to be concerned about the poor, the unemployed, the pensioners, those who are making the real sacrifices in Canada.

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**FINANCE****DEMAND THAT TAX ON FARM FUELS BE REDUCED**

**Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia):** Madam Speaker, last Tuesday's budget was a very disappointing budget for farmers. Less than 1¼ per cent of the total budget goes toward agriculture, the major backbone of the country, at a time when farmers are faced with high rising costs of production and falling world prices for agricultural products sold.

I and my colleagues have called again and again in this House for the cutting back of the very high federal tax on farm fuels, a tax that is over 60 cents per gallon at this time when world prices are falling. This was obviously rejected in the budget.

In addition, there seems to be no positive direction for agriculture put forward by the Minister of Finance. It is obvious that the Minister of Agriculture has no clout in the Cabinet and has had absolutely no impact on the Minister of Finance and the Liberal Government in regard to the welfare of farmers and agriculture.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**SPECIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM****ORDER FOR WATER BOMBERS MANUFACTURED BY CANADAIR**

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my first question is directed to the Minister responsible for Economic Development who announced the Government's Special Recovery Program yesterday. He announced that Ottawa will commission up to 20 Canadair CL 215 water bombers on a shared cost program with the Provinces as part of the Special Recovery Program. Will the Minister confirm that this plane has been around since 1968, that it uses a World War II model

engine, and that the other Provinces and other potential customers have rejected it in the past because its cost per flying hour is ten times as high as other planes? Is this the Minister's long awaited high tech policy?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** Madam Speaker, the aircraft is, of course, of a 1967 design. It has been utilized very widely, not only in Canada but internationally, including China, France, and North Africa. It has been utilized with the engines that are now in the aircraft because of the specific use that is made of the aircraft.

The piston engines that are used in the CL 215 are desirable because of the necessity for the aircraft to accelerate at a very rapid rate in the environment within which the aircraft operates. If the hon. lady will recall, it flies in and scoops water out of lakes in order to dump it on forest fires. You cannot do that with a jet aircraft, Madam Speaker.

**Miss Carney:** Madam Speaker, I should point out that I had been flying in water bombers long before I ever came to Parliament. Ten times the cost per flying hour of a competitive aircraft is about par for the course for the Government.

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**CUSTOMS AND EXCISE****INCREASE IN DUTY-FREE EXEMPTION FOR RETURNING RESIDENTS**

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, I address my second question to the Prime Minister who said that his Government could not leave more money in the hands of consumers because they cannot be trusted to buy Canadian goods and would spend it on imports and trips abroad. We can only assume that the Prime Minister ignores the value added to the economy by Canadian-owned foreign car dealers and import companies.

If the Government has such a low opinion of the spending habits of Canadians, why did it increase the duty-free exemption by 100 per cent, a measure which encourages spending abroad and leads to the export of jobs?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I do not know why the hon. lady deliberately misquoted me. I never used the words, "the consumer cannot be trusted". I enunciated the very simple economic proposition that I am sure that the Hon. Member would agree with, that when you stimulate consumer spending directly, some of that consumer spending leaks out of the country to purchase goods made in other countries. That is all I said.

**Miss Carney:** I should point out that the Prime Minister still did not answer the question.