

S.O. 21

The report of the committee, recognizing that a higher domestic wheat price is not in itself sufficient to meet the problem, also suggested that deficiency payments be considered, that Canada seek inclusion of agriculture as a specific item at the next round of GATT talks, and that Canada continue to strive for a new international grains agreement.

I am pleased to have been part of this committee which was formed as a result of my Private Member's Motion of last December. The entire process leading up to the report demonstrates that back-bench Members of Parliament can have meaningful input, input which can and does influence government policy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE

FARM FINANCE REVIEW PANELS—CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the worsening farm crisis brought on by falling world grain prices, the House has yet to see action taken by the Government on its promise to provide farm finance review panels. After the election, we saw the so-called Grey-Bruce experiment. A report was presented but no action was taken. Prior to Christmas the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) said that he would present legislation with teeth, prior to Christmas, yet again we saw no legislation. In February the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) presented his Budget and promised farm debt review panels, yet no legislative proposals were made and no action taken.

The end of April saw the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) enter the Conservatives' phoney war against farm debt with a promise that farm debt panels would be in place before the end of June. No legislation has been presented and no action has been taken. Today a committee recommended a \$10 per bushel price for domestically consumed wheat. Will this recommendation be acted upon any faster than the oft-repeated promise to establish debt review boards?

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

POST OFFICE AT POINTE-AU-CHÊNE, P.Q.—METHOD OF
AWARDING CONTRACT

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, as a result of a practice which I would describe as internal patronage on the part of a Crown corporation, namely the Canada Post Corporation, the post office of Pointe-au-Chêne in my riding will be operated by the wife of the postmaster of a neighbouring community located roughly 35 kilometres from

this municipality. This lady has gained experience by helping her husband now and then, and she has also carried out minor contracts for Canada Post. She gained her experience indirectly and today she can obtain a permanent commission contract on the strength of the work she has done in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have anything against this lady but I denounce this system which condones such abuses. In a municipality where jobs are scarce, I deplore the fact that Pointe-au-Chêne men and women cannot hope to get this interesting job which might support another needy family. Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister and the Canada Post Corporation president will meet with the union and abolish this conflict of interests practice which sullies the reputation of the corporation and therefore does disservice to postal employees and the members—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The 60 seconds have expired.

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[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

SEQUEL TO PRIVATIZATION OF DE HAVILLAND

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, the Government remains committed to the process of the privatization of Crown corporations which are not essential to the achievement of public policy. Several months ago de Havilland Aircraft was sold to the Boeing company of Seattle. Canadians will recall the doom, gloom, and fear tactics used by the Liberals and the NDP about the loss of jobs. As we predicted, the new owners have instilled long-term confidence in de Havilland and new orders are now on the upswing.

Three major sales totalling \$410 million and up to 46 Dash 8 turboprops were made this week by de Havilland. Richard Barton of Time Air of Lethbridge, Alberta, whose recent order was worth \$110 million, said:

We view the company with more confidence with the Boeing reputation behind it.

Thanks to the healthier order book, 4,850 workers at de Havilland are now secure. More jobs will be created thanks to Boeing's world-wide sales network.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker: May I draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in our galleries today of the Hon. Robert McClelland, Minister of Industry and Small Business Development for British Columbia.