

United States and access to credit, thanks to the financial institution reforms that have been passed, better than any other country in the OECD.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

In the more than seven weeks between now and the resumption of this session in February, hundreds of farm families and their creditors will be reviewing their financial future. Since commercial mortgage rates are now as much as three percentage points lower than the Farm Credit Corporation rate, can the Minister of Agriculture tell this House and those families what rate Farm Credit Corporation will be charging in 1992 so that these farm people will be given realistic choices in deciding whether to continue or to quit?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to do that for the hon. member. If he would have asked that question last year, I would have given him an answer that would have had Farm Credit Corporation charging five percentage points more than it is today. The hon. member knows that farm credit adjusts its interest rates on a weekly basis so that producers are able to take advantage of the lowest interest rates that the Farm Credit Corporation could obtain for farmers in the market.

That is the policy. It is adjusted every week so that farmers have the advantage of the marketplace and the downturn in interest charges that has taken place through the Government of Canada, this government, managing the economy in the manner it has.

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, our farms, fisheries, and forests are threatened by this government, in particular our forests.

The ruling today of the U.S. International Trade Commission on the softwood lumber tariff is the start of a new trade war over our forests. My question is to the Minister for International Trade. Last week in the

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forestry committee the minister of forests said the government was surprised by U.S. retaliation this fall.

• (1450)

Is the government surprised by today's action and can the minister assure Canadians and this House that it will fight with vigour to protect the sovereignty of our forests? We do not want our forest policy dictated from Washington, D.C.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, that is precisely why we took the decision to terminate the memorandum of understanding on softwood lumber, so that Canadian provinces would establish their own forest management practices without having to clear any of these with Washington.

As I indicated in my previous answer, we are disappointed with this particular decision. I also indicated that this has happened on many occasions before at this stage of the proceedings. This is the first of four determinations. Following that we have access to the dispute settlements mechanism system under the free trade agreement. If necessary, we are prepared to go to that limit.

If my hon. friend listened to my first answer, he would know that I said we will be working very closely with the industry, with the provinces, with our friends in the United States who support our position because we believe that the actions taken by the United States are quite unjustified.

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PORNOGRAPHY

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

On May 31 of this year, I asked the Minister of Justice to address the urgent issue of hard core pornography. As I said at the time, many violent crimes, including wife and child battering and the sexual abuse of women and young children, can be traced to hard core pornography.

When is the government going to act on this reality by bringing in strong legislation that will end the widespread problem of hard core pornography?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member