

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize also the enthusiastic welcome of the Alma citizenry.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to each and every participant.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

MARITIME LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, 440 days is a long time to wait for anything. When one waits for 440 days for a Government to act in an emergency situation, it is really an abdication of responsibility.

In November of 1984 the Maritime Farmers Council met with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) at which time they put forward a solid plan to save an industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the maritime economy. The proposal calls for moneys to be directed for research and development in order to make the maritime livestock industry self-sufficient in feed grain within 15 years. The second, and equally important aspect of the plan, calls for a reinstatement of federal feed freight assistance to the level of 60 per cent.

The Government has shown its true colours through inaction. On numerous occasions during the past 440 days I have asked the Minister for a decision on behalf of maritime farmers. The Council of Maritime Premiers has pressed for a decision, and the Maritime Farmers Council has been equally adamant in its demands for action.

Is the Government interested in maritime agriculture? After 440 days of hiding from this issue the answer is obvious. The answer is that the policy of this Government with regard to maritime agriculture is to let it wither and die. Shame—shame on this irresponsible Government!

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ENERGY

RETAIL PRICES CHARGED FOR GASOLINE

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, for the past few weeks Canadians have been writing to their Members of Parliament about the gasoline retail price differential which exists between Canada and the United States. Not only does the retail price of gasoline vary between countries, it also varies between regions. Even cities which are close to one another will show price differences.

In my riding of Fraser Valley East the retail price of a litre of leaded gasoline in Abbotsford is 56.2 cents. Less than 40 kilometres away in Greater Vancouver the price for an identical litre of gasoline is also 56.2 cents. However, a transit tax of approximately one cent per litre of gasoline is levied in the Vancouver area, whereas Abbotsford has no such extra tax. Why then is the price of gasoline the same as in Vancouver?

S.O. 22

Surely, the price of gasoline should be cheaper in Abbotsford than in Vancouver. But this is not the case.

In September of 1985 the Mayor of Abbotsford wrote to all the major oil companies about their pricing practices. In my opinion the Mayor received a less than satisfactory answer. Perhaps the oil companies were reluctant to pass on the benefits of cheaper gasoline to smaller communities. It seems that all the major oil companies follow a schedule of prices and are not anxious to compete with each other on prices. Only the independent gasoline retailers seem to be giving the consumer a break—at least they give a 4 per cent cash discount.

Mr. Cassidy: Come on over!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEANING OF "CAPITAL GAIN" AND "CAPITAL LOSS"

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I will deal today with the simplicity and clarity of the Canadian tax system. I should like to quote from Section 39.(1) of the Income Tax Act:

Meaning of capital gain and capital loss

(1) For the purposes of this Act,

(a) a taxpayer's capital gain for a taxation year from the disposition of any property is his gain for the year determined under this subdivision (to the extent of the amount thereof that would not, if section 3 were read without reference to the expression "other than a taxable capital gain from the disposition of a property" in paragraph (a) thereof and without reference to paragraph (b) thereof, be included in computing his income for the year or any other taxation year) from the disposition of any property of the taxpayer other than

(i) eligible capital property,

(i.1) an object that Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board has determined meets all criteria set out in paragraphs 23(3)(b) and (c) of the Cultural Property Export and Import Act and that has been disposed of,

(A) in the case of a gift to which subsection 110(2.1) applies, within 15 months after the death of the taxpayer or such longer period as is reasonable—

Mr. Speaker: I must regretfully advise the Hon. Member that the time allotted to him has expired.

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● (1410)

COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA—REMOTE AREAS—LONG DISTANCE CHARGES

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago Bell Canada filed with the CRTC new criteria