

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 23, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

AIRPORTS

PLEA FOR RESALE OF EXPROPRIATED MIRABEL LANDS

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, in the *Montreal Gazette* today another example of injustice to the people of Quebec has been brought to my attention. Farmers in the area surrounding Mirabel, whose land was taken away from them at ridiculous prices, are fighting to regain their rights under our Constitution and under their privilege as Canadian citizens. The Government has to be condemned for the attitude it took toward those people at Mirabel. Those people had excess land expropriated, taken away from them. The Government did not do the same thing in Pickering, because it knows the people in Pickering would battle for their rights.

I request the Government to reconsider its hard stand against these fine people from the area around Mirabel who had their homes taken away from them, homes which go back many generations. This land should be returned to the original owners or their heirs in order to retain the identity of that community. The area of Mirabel is a disaster, Mr. Speaker. It has not provided any benefit to the people there. It has only been hurtful to those citizens.

I request that this House bring forward an act to permit the original owners to repurchase the 50,000 acres—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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MEDICAL CARE

REGULATION OF NUMBERS OF PRACTISING PHYSICIANS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Association of Interns and Residents has brought to the attention of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs that a practice exists under the existing Medical Care Act and, according to CAIR, will continue to exist under the Canada Health Act, whereby a Province can regulate the number of qualified practising physicians by denying them a medicare

billing number. Such a practice is now occurring in the Province of British Columbia.

It must be remembered that these doctors have been declared fully qualified by an appropriate College of Physicians and Surgeons which is responsible for assessing their training and awarding licences to practise. Although this practice is at present restricted to one Province, it is conceivable that it could be adopted by all the Provinces in Canada, thus denying the right to practise to qualified physicians who are Canadian born and Canadian trained.

In all Provinces but Quebec they can opt out of the system and be paid under the insurance scheme providing that they set fees within the accepted level of pay in the fee schedule. This problem, I feel, has not been solved in the deliberations of the Standing Committee. It is a principle of fundamental fairness that duly qualified doctors be assured that they will have an opportunity to practise within medicare, otherwise they may be deprived of an opportunity to earn a livelihood in the practice of their profession unless a second tier outside medicare is established.

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AGRICULTURE

FUNDING OF MANITOBA EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, for years the Department of Agriculture has underfunded the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, and it is time for a change. The Exhibition organization puts on three fairs each year, including the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon, which begins this coming Monday. It is the largest spring fair of its kind in western Canada, and it has a tremendous economic impact on the entire Brandon-Souris region.

Thanks to a dedicated organizing group, all three fairs have prospered and grown. Unfortunately, federal funding has not kept pace. Last year the federal Government contributed less than \$22,000, which covered only a fraction of the Exhibition organization's three-quarters-of-a-million-dollar budget. In fact, over the past eight years there has been only a paltry increase in federal funding.

Other exhibitions elsewhere in the country are not underfunded to this degree and there is no excuse for the lack of adequate funding in Manitoba. Although the three fairs put on by the Provincial Exhibition in Manitoba are top notch, the organizers know that in order to keep on attracting top competitors and exhibitors, they must offer adequate prize money. That may not continue to be possible unless federal funding is improved.