

S.O. 21

improved and attitudes are changing as a result of new perceptions of government. Federal-provincial relations are improving across the country. When optimism reigns, Canadians are happier, more productive and more inclined to invest.

In Beauce, the employment situation is improving and the number of jobless workers has dropped. According to the Director of the Canada Employment Centre in Beauce, in 1985 the employment situation will improve, mainly as a result of an increase in the number of jobs. I think it is important to emphasize the positive aspects of success, and consequently, I would like to give a few examples of what is happening in our riding and show what we are doing.

I would like to mention the remarkable performance by the CANAM MANAC group in Saint-Georges et Saint-Gédéon, whose production figures have increased dramatically to \$130 million. There has also been a considerable expansion at the Systèmes Archimèdes construction company in Saint-Frédéric, which has been very successful on the export market thanks to a new concept in housing design. I may add that Culinar intends to invest \$15 million in its two plants in Sainte-Marie.

As far as small businesses are concerned, my riding is in very good shape.

I agree with my industrial commissioners that there is a general feeling of confidence and optimism in Beauce, a riding that has often been considered as a barometer for the entire province of Quebec.

To the pessimists opposite, I—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

NET FARM INCOME

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, Canadian farmers are angry at the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). In fact they are furious at the White Paper he tabled in this House entitled *Tax Issues in Agriculture*, a document which alleges that farmers earn twice as much as the average taxpayer and only pay one-quarter as much in taxes. This ridiculous statement by the Minister of Finance comes at a time when tens of thousands of our youngest, most productive farmers are facing the worst debt crisis since the 1930s, and at a time when total farm income today is almost identical to what it was 10 years ago, while purchasing power has been cut in half by inflation.

The Minister of Finance thinks it is fair to compare the income of a farmer with the income of the average wage earner. I would point out to him that a farmer works 12 to 15 hours a day, throws in the labour of his family members to

boot, and has a massive capital investment compared to that of the average wage earner.

The farmers of the country are getting fed up with the attitude of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) who says that he will not help them out of their debt crisis. However, they are totally frustrated by the Minister of Finance who wrote this misleading document on farm incomes, a document which totally distorts and misrepresents the really difficult situation faced by farmers in Canada today. With a Minister of Finance like this, it is little wonder that our country reached two of the worst economic records in Canadian history this week—the lowest dollar ever of 71 cents U.S., and the highest government spending estimates ever of \$105 billion.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AID

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FROM BOLIVIA

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to say a few words about agriculture and the International Development Research Centre.

[English]

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, I often hear of how Canada has helped other nations, particularly in the area of agriculture. Naturally this pleases me as one of the great agricultural institutions of the world is in my riding.

My point today concerns the International Development Research Centre and its splendid work with Bolivia in the field of genetic and agricultural improvements of the Quinoa plant, a most important source of energy and nutrition in the Andean region. I have been asked to extend the thanks of the Bolivian Government to the Parliament of Canada for the support which was given with good will and without self-interest. Accordingly, I do so, Sir.

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● (1110)

STATUS OF WOMEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party I would like to extend my congratulations to Sylvia Gold, the new President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. We are pleased to see the appointment of a progressive woman with excellent experience, a good understanding of women's issues, extensive labour experience, and outstanding leadership qualities. She has the support of women across the country.

However, one good appointment does not make a council. There are 13 vacancies. Competent women from across the country representing all regions, cultural groups, native people,