

S.O. 21

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA—UNITED STATES PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, once again the President of the United States is spreading blatant lies about Nicaragua, and, in fact, has declared war on this small, struggling Central American country.

The American President does not want peace or democracy in Central America. He has refused to support the draft Contadora peace treaty. While the President labels the Sandanista Government a communist plot to subvert and attack its neighbours, not one of those neighbours agrees with him. The eight Contadora and support countries from Latin America have asked the President to stop funding the Contras and to support Contadora. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) goes to Washington on March 17, will he tell President Reagan to get his troops out of Central America and to put in some development money?

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

TAXES PAID BY WOMEN

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, March 8, marks International Women's Day—an event which stems from the tragic death of women in sweat shops in New York City's garment district in 1908. As we enter the year following the United Nation's International Women's Decade, I think about families in Canada, about working women in Canada, single women who are supporting children, and elderly women living on fixed incomes.

As a result of the Government's Budgets, single women in Canada will need financial help because it is going to be tougher to get along. A single parent with two children earning \$15,000 a year will pay \$248 more in taxes in 1986. A retired single woman with an income of \$10,000 will pay \$160 more this year in taxes because of these Budgets. I do not believe this is a good start for women and families in Canada as we honour International Women's Day.

[Translation]

The Liberal party has implemented a number of measures for the benefit of Canadian women: family allowances; old age security pensions; the child tax credit; affirmative action programs; appointment of women to positions including that of

Governor General and Justice of the Supreme Court, giving women access to training—

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Sixty seconds, I'm afraid.

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AGRICULTURE

SITUATION OF ONTARIO FARMERS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, never have so many been so disappointed as have Ontario farmers with the latest Conservative Budget. Their crisis is very real. As the Chairman of the Farm Credit Corporation told the agricultural committee this week, the number of farm families in severe financial distress rose from 33,000 in 1984 to 39,000 as of last fall.

These farmers hoped desperately for three clear moves—the end of all farm fuel taxes, a significant cut in interest rates for farmers, and moves toward parity pricing. Yet the Budget failed these hard working producers. Only 6,000 will get some interest relief through the new FCC mortgage system.

The Government made no new move on farm fuel taxes. In 1984 the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised to end excise taxes on farm fuel.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT PLANNING STRATEGY

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Ricardo Lopez (Châteauguay):** Mr. Speaker, in 1984, the Conservative Government promised to create jobs. Last November, it tabled a strategy for economic renewal and job creation, and during the past fifteen months, the Government has followed its plan very closely.

Part of this strategy was to create programs that would provide workers with the training they need according to current and future labour market requirements. The Canadian Jobs Strategy was designed with this training and career concept in mind, as opposed to the previous emphasis on programs for temporary jobs.

We are starting to see the results, since 580,000 jobs have been created up to now. The unemployment rate has dropped from 11.7 per cent in September 1984 to the current 9.8 per cent. It is the first time in four years that unemployment has been less than 10 per cent.

In addition to creating new jobs, the Conservative Government has also controlled—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds!