

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 4, 1989

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, the government dealt a serious blow to the potato, vegetable, tobacco and grain farmers of Prince Edward Island when it decided to eliminate the interest free provision of the Advance Payments for Crops Act.

As a mixed farmer from P.E.I., I am well aware of the value of the Hon. Eugene Whelan's advance payments program. It provides interest free cash flow and orderly marketing which naturally brings better prices for farmers. Without the interest free aspect the program is useless. The farmer must pay the administrative costs of the program. The interest free advances covered these costs.

To meet their expenses, farmers will be forced to put their product on the market. This will cause a glut and prices will go down. Once again the farmer loses.

Everyone involved in agriculture in P.E.I. knows how important orderly marketing is to the agricultural industry and to the provincial economy. This is just another assault on the Canadian farmer.

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VIA RAIL

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, today the Minister of Transport has dealt a deadly blow to Canadians who travel by VIA Rail. Like a hangman waiting for the secretly set hour of execution, the Minister of Transport stonewalled questions in the House, raised the public level of anxiety, cowardly avoided meeting concerned mayors, ignored the Tory

pledge to consultation and open government, and contradicted the Prime Minister's commitment to environmentally sustainable development.

In light of his statement today, does the Minister of Transport actually care about Canada? Does he really understand the nation building role of railways? At the present rate of dismantling, will there be a Canada left by 1992? How long can Canadians trust this government with its interminable record of broken promises?

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, industry is taking a leading role in the protection of the environment. This evening, in the riding of Elk Island, public hearings are being held by Dow Chemical into the effect that planned expansion will have on the environment. Using a team approach, industry, environmental groups, government and the public can work together to protect our environment.

In September, Proctor and Gamble announced that reductions of dioxins and furans by more than 95 per cent in pulp wood have been achieved in an aggressive research program. With the co-operation of the dioxin task force team formed by the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association to deal with the challenges of dioxin and furan reductions, industry is demonstrating leadership and commitment to the protection of the environment.

Let us follow the lead of industry. Let us work together in Canada to protect our environment. Let us all work together for a better quality of life for all Canadians.

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VIA RAIL

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport today announced that VIA Rail will be cut by 51 per cent. For rural Canada this is nothing more than another indication that the Tory agenda is to get out of the business of being government.