

policies enunciated in both the Nielsen and Forget Reports aimed at gutting the Unemployment Insurance Program.

The people of Newfoundland, particularly those of St. John's East, will continue to reject these policies. We look forward to the day when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will take courage in both his hands and permit them to send another New Democrat to Ottawa in the awaited federal St. John's East by-election.

Finally, we congratulate Gene Long—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL HELP

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Canadian history a Prime Minister attended a conference on Canada's agricultural outlook and announced a \$1 billion program for this country's grains producers. Needless to say, as a Government Member who sits on the Standing Committee on Agriculture, I am extremely proud of this program under which more than \$37 million will be paid out to Quebec producers of wheat, barley, oats and other agricultural commodities.

Under this financial assistance program the average producer will receive about \$5,000, and even up to \$25,000 in some cases.

Mr. Speaker, world-wide the agricultural sector is experiencing difficulties and this Government has decided to step in and help our producers after listening to their representations and solutions. This is one more instance where our Government did listen and respond positively, another commitment honoured by the Progressive Conservative Government—the Canadianization of agricultural programs.

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● (1415)

[English]

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

APPOINTMENTS TO FITNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on December 9 the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) issued a news release announcing a Minister's committee on fitness. This committee is to be responsible for the preparation of a report recommending a

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structural framework for the management and administration of fitness at the national level.

This is an absolute outrage to the people of Atlantic Canada and western Canada. Eight people were appointed to this committee and, notwithstanding the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) campaigned on the theme of national reconciliation, the Government did not see fit to appoint one individual from western Canada or from Atlantic Canada.

We have been alienated by the national Government, both through its economic policies and its cultural policies. Now the process of consultation is forgetting about the regions of western and Atlantic Canada. I call upon the Prime Minister to intervene and order the Minister to review the appointments to this committee to make sure that people from Atlantic Canada and western Canada are included.

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AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, although I am occasionally disappointed by the quality of reporting on agricultural issues in the urban dailies, I am pleased that today's *Globe and Mail* quotes Wayne Easter, the President of NFU, as saying that the federal Government should be commended for the manner in which the \$1 billion has been distributed among grain producers. As Don Knoerr, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, has indicated, it was the farm organizations themselves that devised the formula and the results are satisfying.

Grain farmers know that the \$1 billion payment is the largest such payment in Canadian history, and they are particularly appreciative of the fact that this is a cash payment rather than the loan which the critics had forecast. While the \$1 billion payment will not in itself resolve the grain industry's financial crisis, I am delighted that over \$150 million will go to Manitoba farmers, particularly in light of the fact that that is virtually the figure for which such spokesmen as the Hon. Bill Uruski have been calling. Now if only provincial Governments would match this \$1 billion payment, the Canadian grain picture would be vastly improved.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

KINGSTON COMPANY'S THREAT TO CLOSE PLANTS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have just found out that Cancoil Thermal Corp., a Kingston company, has decided to lay off its workers and close down its plant simply because the workers decided they wanted to unionize.