

S.O. 21

[English]

## MULTICULTURALISM

PROCEEDINGS AT TORONTO CONFERENCE

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, concern about the new direction of Conservative multicultural policy was not allayed by the Multiculturalism Means Business Conference in Toronto on the weekend. The conference was well attended, but the delegates were there as much to ask questions about matters the Government is not addressing as they were to celebrate the multicultural resources on which Canada can draw.

The conference itself demonstrated the shortcomings of the approach of the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Jelinek). Frank Stronach of the Magna International Group made an impressive conference chairman, but the featured business speakers were John Bulloch of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and Roger Hamel of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Multicultural business accomplishments received only limited recognition. Those who asked questions remained anxious about reduced grants to multicultural organizations, lack of Government action on employment equity, and the certification problems of foreign-trained professionals.

The Multiculturalism Means Business Conference was a good initiative but it will not serve as the new multicultural policy for our country.

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

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## WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAYMENT TO FARMERS

**Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, the announcement made by the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) in Winnipeg this morning is good news for western Canada. The \$580 million interim payment is the largest ever made under the Western Grain Stabilization Act. It will be placed in the hands of hard-pressed producers before they begin seeding the 1986 crop.

The payment, following the over \$2 billion our Government has contributed to western Canada since September of 1984, very clearly demonstrates the high priority we place on agriculture. This interim payment will be made as a result of amendments to the Western Grain Stabilization Act made in February, 1985. It will give participating producers a return of \$4 for every dollar they have contributed to the program from January, 1983, to July, 1985.

## CORPORATE AFFAIRS

TREATMENT OF MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS CONDEMNED

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, minority shareholders require more protection from the self-serving schemes of powerful families.

Last week, Crown, an insurance conglomerate, asked shareholders to split their shares to create more non-voting stock. This favoured the largest shareholders, the Burns and Jodrey families. Fortunately the CN pension fund stopped this plan.

In another questionable scheme Trilon Financial said it is raising \$102 million in a new stock issue. While the controlling shareholders own less than 35 per cent of the current shares, they are taking 50 per cent of this new issue, thereby diluting the rights of minority shareholders. The minority shareholders are also the losers with regard to the exorbitant \$2-million underwriting fee on a risk-free deal. Great Lakes Group, 62 per cent-owned by Brascade, which also controls Trilon, will pocket the \$2 million.

● (1415)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—U.S. SENATOR'S STATEMENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I would like to put a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. At the end of last week the Prime Minister was obviously caught off guard by the reaction of key U.S. Senators to opening formal discussions on trade—

[*Editor's Note: And the Minister of Public Works (Mr. La Salle) having entered the Chamber.*]

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I bid the Minister welcome on his return to the House. It is good to see him looking in such great shape.

May I start again, Mr. Speaker? That is the old Quebec way of interrupting a meeting. Someone comes in in the middle!

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was obviously caught off guard by the attitude of certain key Senators to the trade negotiations. Why was the Leader of the Government so surprised? Where was the 100-man trade office here in Canada? Where was the half-million-dollar consultant, Michael Deaver? Where was the briefing to