

fact that similar centres across Canada, in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec, have remained open under similar circumstances.

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## AGRICULTURE

### SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS' LOSSES

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and concerns the rapidly deteriorating situation in western Canada. Last summer's drought and a wet harvest this fall are driving realized net farm incomes in Saskatchewan well below \$5,000. Every night on television we see farms being auctioned off the RCMP escorting young farmers off their farms.

On September 10 the Minister said that he would have a report within two weeks. Can he give any hope to these young farmers who are losing their farms? Can he say if a decision has been made regarding an acreage payment to these farmers in western Canada?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the Hon. Member has been in the House in the last few days. I recall having this question posed by a member of the NDP. I indicated to him, I believe earlier this week, that the committee, under the leadership of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Assiniboia, had brought forth its recommendations with respect to Phase II, which included recommendations for compensation payments concerning crop losses. I also indicated that that submission was going to Cabinet, and that would be next Tuesday.

### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, it was five weeks ago that the Minister indicated that report would be provided to him. Is he willing to stand in his place today and make a commitment that there will be a payment of up to \$50 per seeded acre as recommended by the Leader of the Opposition, the western wheat pools and many responsible farm organizations in western Canada? Can he give any hope to these young farmers who will be losing their farms this fall?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that the Hon. Member would have a greater knowledge and understanding of the problems of the agricultural industry. One of the prime reasons for holding back was the recommendation of the committee itself in view of the fact that deteriorating weather conditions developed again. Therefore, any decision made prior thereto would simply be inaccurate, insufficient, and premature.

## Oral Questions

### ENERGY

#### PETROLEUM INCENTIVES INQUIRY

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last June he told the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada regarding the replacement of the Petroleum Incentives Program: "I should caution you, we are interested in moving very much to a market-oriented system, with a minimum of tax incentives." Why have the Minister and the Government taken a position of only minimum incentives? Why have they cancelled the PIP grants, refused to offer a replacement, and sabotaged thousands of jobs in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Beaufort?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, here we have another example of overblown rhetoric. No one has said that we refused to put in a replacement for the PIP grants. The Minister herself said quite recently that this is under active review between herself and myself and we hope to have a decision very soon. I would also say, in response to the first part of the overblown rhetoric in his question, that the proposal we will be putting forward will be world competitive.

#### REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I was using the Minister's own words in that question. If he has changed his mind, will he stand in his place and confirm that he will put into effect a substantial replacement for the PIP grants and that it will be announced before November 1, as requested by the Premier of Nova Scotia and IPAC? Or is this just going to go on indefinitely and be yet another broken Tory election promise?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I could stand in my place here for the next two hours and talk about the election promises we have kept.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** That is another example of how the Hon. Member is way offside.

As I indicated in my previous answer, we are going to have a replacement for this program which will be competitive with other regimes in the world. If the Hon. Member would just have a little patience, he might not be too dissatisfied with what he sees.

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## THE ECONOMY

### INTEREST RATES—SPREAD BETWEEN CREDIT CARD CHARGES AND BANK RATE

**Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The bank rate has made an encouraging decline since early September, but