

Government Orders

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent): Madam Speaker, I too am presenting a petition from the farming community. They have had a disastrous year of extremely low prices and are having great difficulty in attempting to recoup their input costs. They are in disastrous trouble and are requesting the government to come forward with support this year.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I suggest that all questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall the questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motion for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall all notices of motion stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Tuesday, September 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-32, an act to amend the Canada Assistance Plan, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee F; and the motion of Mr. Vincent (p. 2536).

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and speak on this particular bill and to bring to the attention of all citizens the devastating effects of this type of legislation and what it is going to mean to those people who are disadvantaged; the poor, the sick, the elderly and women in our communities.

I wish to bring to the attention of the House exactly what is taking place with this legislation. It is referred to affectionately, or not affectionately, as the cap on CAP. The second CAP stands for the Canada Assistance Plan and we all know what it does for those people who are disadvantaged.

It is ironic that someone from a have not province in Atlantic Canada is be up speaking and urging the government to reconsider this legislation, as it is going to affect what we call the have provinces of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. In looking at all the social programs in Canada, I think this is the thin edge of the wedge. While it may be affecting the rich provinces, and some will say they are best able to afford this situation, I am not sure that everyone realizes that over a five-year period a little over \$2 billion in federal transfer payments will be stopped. That will have an adverse affect on these provinces.

The plan was created with a positive foundation of helping everyone, and to help each area of the country, with the federal government contributing 50 per cent of the cost. There was no ceiling on the amount of contributions because there is no ceiling on the adverse effects of a bad economy. We have seen that in the last couple of years with the adverse effects of the recession, the government's high dollar policy, high interest rate policy, and all of those things have transcended all provincial boundaries. Yet the disadvantaged need help. They need the resources of CAP.

The CAP funding went to single parent families, mentally and physically disabled persons, the aged, children in care and those in need of protection from abuse or neglect, the unemployed, families and individuals in crisis, low income workers and battered women. These are just some of the different groups in our society which have been adversely affected by the recession and which are in need of assistance. Now there is going to be a cap on that assistance.

The other thing which a lot of people forget and I think it is worth while to point out is that over half of Canada's poor live in these rich provinces. They are going to be adversely affected. We have seen what has happened in Ontario, with the Ontario government, rightly or wrongly, having to go into massive deficit financing. We know for sure that those people just enumerated are not going to receive the help and the assistance they really deserve because even our rich