

The Address—Mr. Foster

Program, CHIP and RRAP will mean that low-income families, many of them senior citizens, will not be able to carry out repairs to their homes. They will have to go and see their bank manager instead. The cutback of \$200 million in the Industrial Regional Development Program will harm the attraction of new industries to cities like Sault Ste. Marie and northern areas of our country. Toughening up the qualifications for unemployment insurance benefits will push low-income families into welfare that much sooner. Job training programs are to be cut by \$128 million so that people cannot be retrained for new jobs when they lose their old ones.

● (1230)

These are cruel and tough measures for the slow growth areas and the low income parts of our country. Cities like Sault Ste. Marie, which has been wracked by recession since the world-wide recession two and one-half years ago, will need more help this winter rather than less, which is what they will get. If the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance had told the Canadian people during the election campaign last summer what their secret agenda was to be, the result of that election would have been different. They certainly would not have received the support of 50 per cent of the Canadian people. They certainly would not have gotten 75 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons. Surely, Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of change in promises which make people so cynical of politicians.

As well as not keeping its promises, with no advance warning in the election campaign, the Government has reduced many vital services to Canadians. The most frightening aspect of this, Mr. Speaker, is that this is not the end of the Tory "chop chop show". It is probably only the beginning. Our social security system was a sacred trust in the last election. Now it is something to be chopped and negotiated away. We will just have to stand by and see what is proposed for our Old Age Security pension program and our family allowance program which will come under the Tory cutting machine next spring when the budget comes out. Surely no one will believe these kinds of election promises again.

I would like to speak briefly about agriculture today because there is no sector of our economy which requires more attention than this industry at this time. It was mentioned only once in the Speech from the Throne and there were only a couple of proposals and a massive cut of \$63 million with regard to it in the economic statement.

Agri-bonds, Section 31 of the Income Tax Act and capital gains are to be referred to a committee of Parliament. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is the role of government to propose legislation and the role of the Parliament of Canada to dispose of that legislation. This Government seems to be asking us to do endless studies rather than putting forth concrete proposals to be dealt with in the form of legislation.

Canagrex is to be wound up to save the Government \$6.6 million. The Tory policy talks about Canada being a super-power and increasing exports massively. How do we increase

exports massively if we cut out this most important exporting arm of Agriculture Canada?

Agricultural research was to be increased, Mr. Speaker. Now we discover that it is to be cut by \$2.7 million and that laboratory projects are to be deferred. Farmers were to be able to write their loans down to current day values and the special Farm Financing Assistance Program was to be reinstated. There was nary a word in the economic statement or in the Speech from the Throne about that. Agricultural service fees charged by the federal Government will be increased by \$32 million. Some of these are bound to end up in farmers' costs.

There is a crisis in the agricultural industry today with regard to grains, red meats and other sectors. The Agriculture Canada report of mid-summer projects that farm net incomes will drop by 3 per cent across the country this year. In Saskatchewan this projection has increased to 8.9 per cent and to 35.5 per cent in Manitoba. Where is the action to overcome this problem? Grain exports are projected to fall by 25 per cent in the 1984-85 crop year. The value of those exports could drop from the \$5.5 billion of last year to \$3 billion in this coming crop year, according to the Wheat Board. The red meat industry is likewise facing low commodity prices, higher input costs and stiff competition, such as the imports from Ireland which are subsidized to the extent of some 40 cents a pound.

Already this year farm bankruptcies are up by 25 per cent. The Farm Credit Corporation reports that 39,000 farmers are severely stressed financially and that up to 1,700 could face imminent financial collapse due to the heavy debt load. Where is the action in the Speech from the Throne and the economic statement to solve these problems?

The Government promised lower interest rates to be written down by the Farm Credit Corporation or other lenders. There were no proposals put forward in that regard. Where are the review panels which could prevent bankruptcies and provide arbitration such as that which was proposed in Bill C-17 in the Thirty-second Parliament? Why is there no action in the Speech from the Throne to block subsidized beef coming in from Ireland? Why is there no mention of a marketing program or stabilization system to improve returns to the red meat industry? Why is there no action proposed in the Speech from the Throne to set aside debt for those good producers who, in normal times, would have a viable agricultural industry?

I hope that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) will be putting forward a proposal such as was made in the United States in mid-September. Why is there no action to make amendments to the Western Grain Stabilization Fund to have a special payout of \$500 million this year as was proposed by the former Prime Minister? That fund is made up of farmers' money and the returns and market opportunities are drastically reduced this year. That is the sort of action which should have been in the Speech from the Throne or the economic statement.

The Government has proposed practically nothing in the Speech from the Throne to solve the emergency situations