

Mingan Islands which have been made part of our Canadian heritage as a national park.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Radio-Canada for giving all Canadians a chance to see this documentary, and I must say that the people of Havre-St-Pierre, Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, and Mingan, Natashquan and Aguanish were very pleased that Radio-Canada showed this program.

For the benefit of all Canadians, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that although the Rockies are fantastic, there are many beautiful spots and wonders of nature to be seen on the North Shore, and I think this program has helped to inform and educate people about this exceptional heritage we have in Quebec and especially on the North Shore. I hope Radio-Canada will continue to help Canadians discover the natural beauties of their country.

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[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

INTEREST RATES CHARGED ON LOANS

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, hundreds of Canadian farmers have been dragged down as the Government cuts a path of bungled programs and inept agricultural policies. Last year 488 Canadian farmers declared bankruptcy, compared to 410 in 1982. In my home Province of Manitoba the number of farm bankruptcies doubled last year.

Yet, many farm bankruptcies could be prevented by sound government policies. For example, about 900 farm loans held by the Farm Credit Corporation will incur interest charges later this year of up to 16.75 per cent. That is because the benefits are about to expire on a government program which reduced interest charges on FCC loans two years ago. The irony is that while the FCC is about to charge 16 per cent or more on these old loans, it is offering new loans at 13 per cent. It is hard to believe that the FCC is in business to help farmers.

About 130 of these FCC loans are held by Manitoba farmers. A few of them have told me that the re-introduction of higher interest rates will drive them into bankruptcy. Of course, credit in itself will not solve all the problems of Canadian agriculture. There is no question, however, that these higher interest FCC loans will contribute to even more farm bankruptcies this year than there were last year. By stubbornly refusing to keep down the interest on these FCC loans, the Liberal Government has proven once again that it is not fit to govern. Canadian farmers cannot wait for the opportunity to throw it out of office.

Oral Questions

MULTICULTURALISM

CALL FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, Canada has often been described as a mosaic with multicultural policies, in contrast to the American melting pot. In spite of its so-called melting pot, the United States has instituted in a couple of universities, one being Washington State University, a Department of Comparative American Cultures. Under the leadership of President Glenn Terrell, Washington State has become a regional resource for Asian-American studies. Why do we have less in Canada?

The Government has promised a new Multiculturalism Act this year. I would urge the Government to implement political multiculturalism rather than symbolic multiculturalism under this new Act, and to introduce some structural changes to Canadian policy which will make multiculturalism in Canada an active policy. I urge the Government to establish regional research and resource centres in comparative Canadian cultures. The University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg have already made representations to have such a regional research and resource centre implemented. The Government should act immediately on this joint proposal and set up such a regional multicultural centre in Winnipeg.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LEVEL OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Twelve days ago Canadians learned that unemployment in Canada had remained stable at 11.1 per cent over the past three months, whereas in the United States unemployment had actually fallen steadily and is now down to 8.2 per cent. The Minister knows that hardest hit amongst the unemployed in Canada are young people. There are still 543,000 young people unemployed in Canada, and the rate of employment for young people has actually fallen over the past five months. Will the Minister explain to the House how his programs have failed to address this critical problem?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that our programs have failed to address this critical problem. As the hon. gentleman well knows, there has been an increase in employment. One of the difficulties that we have in conceptual terms is that, as the economy recovers, as it has been recovering, and as jobs are created, as something like 400,000 have been over the last year, more people are enticed back into the labour force. Therefore, the unemployment figures themselves do not give a