

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, December 5, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) tried to make Canadians believe that the Official Opposition was trying to scare the unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, the Official Opposition and the people of Canada are mindful of the fact that not long ago, in 1985, this same Government released a paper and invited Canadians to discuss the reform of Old Age Security pensions and family allowances. The same Government and the same Prime Minister promised the elderly that Old Age Security pensions would not be affected. They promised that the money cut from family allowances would not be used to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians will recall that this Government did the exact opposite. Six months later, it cut the indexation of Old Age Security pensions and family allowance payments to help reduce the deficit, leading to the results we saw in the polls in July, namely that 52 per cent of Canadians do not trust the Prime Minister.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Fred King (Okanagan—Similkameen): Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the honour on behalf of the Hon. Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) to announce a \$400,000 increase in feed freight assistance to British Columbia. This is in addition to the \$5.6 million spent in 1986 under the Feed Freight Assistance Program to ship 525,000 tonnes of grain into B.C. The changes announced today are in line with the Government's goal of equalizing feed grain prices in those areas of Canada that are not self-sufficient in feed grain production.

Today's announcement is yet another indication of the commitment of this Government to maintain and enhance the role of the agricultural producer in our Canadian economy.

I pay special tribute to the B.C. Cattleman's Association and the B.C. Federation of Agriculture for bringing to our attention inequities in feed grain freight costs in the province. I am happy and proud that the Government has addressed these inequities.

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AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, on October 6, as reported at page 97 of *Hansard*, in response to questions from my Leader, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), about deficiency payments for western grain producers, whether or not it would be new money, and when they would get it, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said:

I will tell him this. He is asking whether it is new money or old money. It will be new money and good money in the pockets of the farmers.

On October 7, in response to questions from the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the Prime Minister said as reported at page 147 of *Hansard*:

The program about which we have been talking will put a billion dollars of increased cash flow into the hands of Canadian farmers beyond that which they are now receiving.

He went on to say:

This is new money in the hands of farmers, and I know my right hon. friend will not oppose that.

We and the western grain producers would like to know where that new money in the pockets of the farmers is. When are they going to get it and in what manner?

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ENERGY

SYNCRUDE TAR SANDS PROJECT

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, security of supply should be the policy of the Government on oil. We cannot rely on imports from the Middle East or elsewhere as the political situation in those countries is volatile and our own