

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am very happy to learn about the support, although belated support, from the NDP for this Program because I remember Members of the New Democratic Party voted against this program when we put it forward. I must say to my friend, however, that unfortunately I did not attend that CMHC meeting this morning. The Hon. Member may have had friends there or he may have been present himself, but I was not there, and I cannot therefore, comment on that particular meeting.

As far as the budget is concerned, the Hon. Member will have to show patience for another 36 hours.

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[Translation]

**EMPLOYMENT****WITHDRAWAL OF QUEBEC FROM NEED PROGRAM—STATUS OF MUNICIPAL PROJECTS**

**M. René Gingras (Abitibi):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and concerns the NEED Program. We know that the PQ Government has withdrawn from the Canada-Québec Agreement on the NEED Program. I should like to know whether there have been any new developments regarding projects by municipalities, and whether those projects have been considered by the PQ Government. We know that some excellent projects were submitted by the municipalities and I would therefore like to know what is happening to these projects.

**Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the Member for Abitibi that since March 23, when the Quebec Government sent an ultimatum to the Federal Government on the NEED Program, indicating that it did not intend to meet its December 23 commitment regarding this program—since then, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has approved 683 projects that will create 6,722 jobs, which represents \$36.6 million.

As far as the municipal level is concerned, the Quebec Minister indicated at the time that the \$50 million that were available for job creation would be spent on municipal projects. Madam Speaker, by the time the agreement was broken by the Quebec Government, we had received 400 projects from various Quebec municipalities, and as far as I know, none of the projects have been approved by the Quebec Government, and we, and especially Quebec municipalities, are still waiting for approval of these projects.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I may point out that in the private sector, we have approved 56 projects that will create 485 jobs, which demonstrates the effectiveness of this program, and especially, the interest shown by private companies in a program aimed at creating often permanent jobs.

[English]

**GRAINS****STATEMENTS BY TWO MINISTERS**

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Could he clarify two conflicting statements of policy, emanating on the one hand from the Minister of Agriculture and from the Minister of State in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board on the other hand. The Minister of State in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board called upon the grain producers of Canada to reduce their acreage by 5 per cent in the case of wheat and 15 per cent in the case of barley, while at the same time the Minister of Agriculture has been quoted as saying that it would be unprincipled and unchristian for the federal Government to tell farmers to cut grain production. Could the Prime Minister advise the House which Minister is accurately reflecting Government policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I have not had occasion to see either of those statements, but I will undertake to look into them and give the Hon. Member an answer.

**Miss MacDonald:** A house divided.

**REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, if in the event the Minister of Agriculture seems to conflict with the stated policy of the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, and if in fact the Minister of Agriculture is in violent disagreement with the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, would the Prime Minister be asking the Minister of Agriculture to do the honourable thing and resign?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Farmers are on and off their tractors. They do not know what to do.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** That is clearly hypothetical, Madam Speaker, including the suggestion.

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**RAILWAYS****OILSEED FREIGHT RATE POLICY—EXCLUSION OF SUNFLOWER SEED**

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. The Minister knows that the oilseed crushing industry is a very important industry, not only to Canada as a whole but specifically to western Canada. It is important in terms of being an economic generator and also interns of jobs. In the Western Transportation Initiatives that have now been brought down and are called the Pepin proposal, included is the long sought after freight rate parity for