

*Oral Questions**[English]***AGRICULTURE**

Mr. Allan Kerpan (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Last March the minister announced that he had instructed the Farm Credit Corporation to turn over the Crow payout to producers who lease land from the FCC. Last month the FCC stated that the minister's benevolent government corporation would increase the producer's share from a very generous 10 per cent up to a whopping 25 per cent.

Why did the FCC defy the minister's instructions? Farmers want to know who is in charge: the minister or his good Liberal friend and party contributor, Mr. Don Jackson?

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what party affiliation Mr. Jackson has. I have never discussed it with him and I do not intend to.

On the substance of the issue, it is obviously not up to me to offer instructions to the FCC in terms of how it manages its business affairs. When the announcement was made in the budget with respect to the \$1.6 billion capital payment in the wake of the cancellation of the WGTA, the FCC itself took the initiative to announce that it would find a way to equitably share that benefit with its leasing clients. It offered one particular formula. A number of the clients indicated to the FCC that in the opinion of the clients, they did not think that formula was sufficiently generous. As a consequence, the FCC more than doubled the formula.

Mr. Allan Kerpan (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the minister and the general manager for the FCC are saying one thing and doing another. The minister has stated that the balance of the payment would be reflected in lower lease and sale agreements, yet documented cases in Saskatchewan show that FCC leases and asking prices have risen by as much as 20 per cent.

Will the minister finally take a stand on something and address this paradox before it is too late?

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is obviously being a bit inconsistent. He invites me to take a stand and every time I do that he criticizes it because it is not the Reform Party position. I would remind him that I was elected as a Liberal, not as a Reformer, and I do not intend to adopt his party's position.

• (1440)

With respect to the arrangements made by the FCC, it anticipates that in the first year of the adjustment to the loss of the Crow rate it will pass through to its tenant clients 12.5 per cent of the value of the Crow payment that it will receive. In the

second year it will pass through another 12.5 per cent. It is fully expected by the third year that the impact of the freight rate adjustment will have worked its way through the land pricing system in western Canada and the benefit of reduced land costs will then be adjusted into the capital base.

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*[Translation]***CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the heritage minister.

The heritage minister is attempting to justify the way its government is apportioning the cuts at the CBC by pretending that both the French and the English networks will have to make the same effort.

Can the minister explain why, in 1992-93, according to the most recent numbers available, the production costs for a one hour program were \$18,000 on the French network and \$37,000 on the English one?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, our colleague does not seem to take into account the fact that the CBC is an independent corporation. I have the responsibility to look after its mandate and its overall financing; the board of directors and the president run the show.

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec, BQ): But then, Mr. Speaker, why has the minister attempted to justify the way the cuts are being apportioned at the CBC? Can the minister explain why a one hour sport program, for instance, costs, for the same time slot, \$28,000 on the French network and \$70,000 on the English network?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my colleague would like me to be the accountant and the auditor for the CBC, which I am not and will not be.

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*[English]***CONFEDERATION LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for Financial Institutions.

The pensions and other savings of many present and former Bell Canada employees and many other Canadians have been jeopardized by the collapse of Confederation Life. Could the minister tell us what can be done to help speed up the liquidation process so that these Canadians receive their moneys as quickly as possible?

Hon. Douglas Peters (Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of interested constituents, and I would suggest to Reform Party