

## S.O. 21

Indeed, criteria should be established for the granting of provincial status to the Yukon; for the eventual granting of provincial or semi-provincial status to the Mackenzie region and the eastern Arctic region; for the possible establishment of new Provinces within the central region of Canada, such as northern Ontario and for the possible extension of provincial boundaries north of the sixtieth parallel into the northern territories. Perhaps even Vancouver Island may one day desire provincial status.

The creation of additional Provinces would enhance national unity and provide greater equity to the entrenched constitutional amending formula.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

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[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

## CONTRIBUTION OF ASBESTOS UNION WORKERS TO AID ECONOMY

**Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe):** Madam Speaker, as a result of our 6 and 5 policy and the recent budget, we are no longer talking about recession but about economic recovery. I should therefore like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House to a quite extraordinary example which, I hope, will be followed and repeated. I am referring to the announcement made by the Hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) to the people of Asbestos on May 16 of this year, according to which more than 300 jobs will be created.

This particular case is a perfect example of co-operation among economic partners. We have here a \$35 million project, in which our Government is to invest \$3.5 million, that is, \$1.4 million under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act and \$2.2 million under the NEED Program. The Johns-Manville Company will be investing \$30 million over a period of two years. The contribution of the Syndicat National de l'Amiante d'Asbestos will be approximately \$2 million, in the form of a wage freeze, at the rate paid on May 15, 1983, until January 31, 1985. Furthermore, employees have agreed to give up the cost of living bonus provided by their collective agreement.

Unionized workers in the community of Asbestos made labour history in Canada in 1949. They have just made history again by taking an active part in our economic recovery. I wish to pay tribute to all those men and women who belong to the unions in question which are affiliated to the CSD.

**Madam Speaker:** Order!

[English]

## AGRICULTURE

## REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF FAMILY FARMS

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills):** Madam Speaker, a deeply rooted tradition in Canada agriculture is the family farm, proven so efficient and profitable both from social and economic points of view. Generation by generation, family farms have improved the quality of life in rural and urban Canada as they kept up the demand for small tractors, trucks, and manufactured goods. Yet the nationwide trend becomes evident from the data available. Farms tend to become fewer and bigger.

The size of the average Canadian farm rose from 279 acres in 1951 to 463 acres in 1971, and recently to more than 511 acres. The number of family farms dropped from over 336,000 in 1971 to 275,000 in 1981. This negative trend, if not averted, will result in a concentration of land in fewer hands, which invariably leads to government control over agriculture.

If the Liberal Government fails to honour our traditional heritage—family farms producing the bulk of our food supply—then we will one day repeat the tragic example of socialist countries with their centralized farming, importing of food and food lines.

This Parliament must bring forth a strategy to rectify this serious trend and keep our Canadian farmers on the land.

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● (1410)

## BILINGUALISM

## VIEWS OF MEMBER FOR SCARBOROUGH EAST

**Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, Canadians should be proud at what appears to be evolving in Manitoba with that Province's apparent agreement to become officially bilingual. If we English-speaking Canadians want to keep this country together, we must accept the basic duality of Canada by giving equal treatment to our two founding languages throughout Canada. However, according to today's *Ottawa Citizen*, such is not the attitude of the Hon. Conservative Member for Scarborough East (Mr. Gilchrist). The Hon. Member is alleged to have said that "the British victory at the Plains of Abraham means that Canada should have one main language and Francophones outside Quebec should be treated virtually like any other minority".

The Hon. Member is also alleged to oppose recognizing French as one of the two official languages of work in the civil service. Undoubtedly the Hon. Member is entitled to his views, but that is not the official policy of the Progressive Conservative Party and this raises the question of how serious that Party is about its support of bilingualism.