

Canadian Wheat Board final payments have increased from \$134 per tonne in 1987-88 to \$197 per tonne last year. This is a 50 per cent increase in price from one year to the next. The initial payment for spring wheat for 1989-90 has been increased from \$155 per tonne in April to \$165 per tonne today. The ability to make an interim payment and final payment worth about \$295 million to Saskatchewan farmers is an indication of the higher average prices for wheat the Canadian Wheat Board was able to obtain on sales in 1988-89.

Therefore justification for an *ad hoc* payment to producers for 1989 cannot be made on the basis of low prices caused by the trade war. As for 1990, it is still too early to tell precisely what the prices will be. However, given the low world stocks, prices are expected to remain reasonably strong.

During the 1986-87 crop year the world price of wheat had fallen to a low of about \$130 a tonne as a result of the trade war between the United States and the EEC. For the 1989-90 crop year world prices had recovered to about \$200 a tonne.

• (1905)

Low world stocks and higher prices have lessened the impact of the trade war. Both the volume of exports assisted with the export subsidies and the size of export subsidies have declined since 1988.

For example, total sales under the export enhancement program have declined from a high of 22.7 million tonnes or 64 per cent of total U.S. wheat exports in 1987-88 to 20.4 million tonnes in 1988-89 or 53 per cent of total U.S. wheat exports. For the first seven months of this crop year, export enhancement sales have totalled just over 5.8 million tonnes.

Nevertheless, despite the easing of the trade war, we recognize that these underlying causes are still present. That is why we are continuing to work through the GATT multilateral trade negotiations to resolve these trade problems.

Along with other members—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret that the hon. parliamentary secretary's time has expired.

### *Adjournment Debate*

#### TIEM CANADA

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight because I want answers to important questions which I raised some time ago. There are no partisan politics involved whatsoever.

TIEM Canada was set up to assist small and medium sized businesses, initially to start up new businesses and later also took on the role to expand certain operations or businesses.

The questions that are of most importance obviously are those that involve public funds. Where is the roughly \$12 million in interest-free start-up loans? Is it being paid back because this particular company was shut down? What about the CEIC funds for jobs created, supposedly close to \$6 million? Is this being recouped? Third, what was the Federal Development Bank involvement in this operation? Were any funds lost?

Those are the basic questions and the most important ones. I want to refer to my question as it appeared in *Hansard* of December 15, 1989, at page 6991. It reads as follows:

TIEM Canada was a national company located in five cities including Winnipeg. TIEM was designed to assist small and medium sized businesses. It received huge amounts of public funds. In May this year it closed its doors.

Why did the ministers involved in providing huge amounts of public funds refuse to renew its contracts?

Why didn't those departments, including the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Department of Industry, Science and Technology and the Federal Business Development Bank, renew these contracts and why won't they give us the report on this company's performance?

The minister indicated at the time that he did not have the file with him and would get back to me later. I accepted that. By the way, part of the evaluation has been provided.

I wrote as a follow-up to the Minister of Employment and Immigration on January 4, and I also wrote to the minister responsible for the Federal Development Bank on that same day. Here are the questions that I raised at the time:

Why did the government decide not to renew its contracts with TIEM?

How much was provided, in contracts or otherwise, by your department to TIEM?