

Oral Questions

forces to the south of our border. The Conservative Government is committed to this end.

In light of the contradictions aired within the Liberal Party this past weekend on the issue of trade with the United States, no Member across the way can criticize the Government for its steady and consistent trade initiatives.

The people of northern Ontario want firm action. They do not want the rhetoric of the Liberal Party. The 15 per cent punitive duty placed on softwood lumber imports by the United States would cripple the forest industry. Northern Ontarians and the Government realize that. We will continue to act for the betterment of the industry and the country.

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● (1415)

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS**LIBERAL PARTY RESOLUTION OPPOSING CRUISE MISSILE TESTING**

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, nothing is more important than a powerful idea whose time has come. Last weekend, rank and file members of the Liberal Party from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia, passed important resolutions calling on Canada to put an end to Cruise missile testing and to declare Canada a nuclear-free zone. In so doing, our Party sent a clear message not only to our fellow Canadians, but to the world. Peace and nuclear disarmament are too important to be left to the superpowers, and the survival of the planet is more important than Canada's commitment to NATO.

As more and more people are coming to realize, it is sheer madness to contribute to the nuclear arms race. As a middle power, Canada has a significant role to play. We have a unique opportunity to show some leadership and independence in the fight for peace. It is neither responsible nor necessary for us to follow the United States in a lock-step down the road to Armageddon.

The Liberal Party spoke last weekend and the message was eloquent. We owe peace to the children of Canada.

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT**FINAL CROP YEAR PAYMENT TO FARMERS**

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) announced the final payment of \$279 million under the Western Grain Stabilization Act for the 1985-86 crop year.

Close to 80 per cent of prairie grain farmers participate in this voluntary program which they fund jointly with the federal Government and which assists them when net cash flow from grain and oil seeds falls below the past five-year average.

This spring an interim payment of \$580 million was made. Together with the final payment, this means farmers will receive a total of \$859 million, the largest pay-out in history.

This is another in a long line of federal government initiatives to help Canadian agriculture. It is further evidence that this Government will spare no effort in seeking to protect the interests of Canada's farming community in the face of unfair pricing and subsidy practices conducted beyond our borders.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**AMENDING LEGISLATION—EFFECT ON DRUG PRICES**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, all I can say in response to Hon. Members is thank you, but I do not really recommend the experience.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Canadian Consumers' Association, senior citizen groups right across the country, provincial Governments, and indeed even Doctor Eastman himself are all concerned that with the present legislation before the House, drug prices will rise in Canada. Surely he must realize that there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are having trouble paying drug prices at their current rate, without his Government bringing in legislation that will prompt higher prices. Will he do something about that?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all government colleagues and I believe all Members of the House, may I convey to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition our genuine congratulations on his achievement over the weekend.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: In regard to the question raised by my right hon. friend, the Government's legislation is designed to accommodate that concern and to generate new capital for research and development. We believe the Government has put forward a balanced and thoughtful approach.