

We had priorities to put in place. As a government we chose to help families in the greatest need, while maintaining our social programs for child care services.

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[English]

NUCLEAR VESSELS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

KRBD-FM radio station from Ketchikan has publicly broadcast a notice to mariners during the past hour that a Los Angeles class nuclear attack submarine is about to enter Alaskan waters from Dixon Entrance, sovereign internal Canadian waters.

Would the minister explain why Canadian officials have known about the presence of the nuclear American submarine inside Canada since Sunday and have made no effort whatsoever to notify Canadian mariners?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well what is in place in order to protect Canadian fishing boats in what was an agreement that we signed with the Americans regarding their travel through Dixon Entrance. This is a genuine dispute. We regard the waters as ours. They regard them as theirs. He knows that.

We continue to maintain that as a result of our own sovereignty considerations we have a good deal with the Americans whereby we are provided with warning. The issue remains as it has in the past. We will continue to monitor what is happening with the American ships.

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GROSS REVENUE INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Agriculture concerns the gross revenue insurance plan which has been effective, predictable and bankable: effective because it is based on individual and not regional considerations, predictable and bankable because support is calculated in the spring before seeding.

Given the fact that it is now March 10, given the fact that seeding is just around the corner, and given the fact that western producers need to know what their target revenue per hectare is, can the minister indicate when

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there will be an announcement as to what the price guarantees will be under the gross revenue insurance program?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asks an important question. As he said, farmers wanted predictability. They wanted individual coverage. They wanted to be bankable in the use of their GRIP.

A new government has been elected in the province of Saskatchewan. It is looking at changing the GRIP. It will not provide at the same level those aspects of predictability and bankability.

Although it is important to note that the national signatory committee recognized these changes as being significant, there would be need for an amendment to the national program. That can be done per formula. The Government of Canada would not stand in the way of the Government of Saskatchewan in attaining this.

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HOUSING

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago in the budget the Minister of Finance announced a program to use RRSPs in the purchase of homes. It has been brought to my attention that because of regulations in RRSPs it may not be possible for people to access their funds before they close the purchase of their homes.

Is the minister aware of this particular problem, and are there some steps that can be taken to alleviate this problem?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for bringing this matter to my attention. I can advise him that the rules will allow RRSP withdrawals to take place for up to 30 days after the closing of a purchase of a home.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of FEDNOR. In 1987 this government recognized regional development with a program called FEDNOR. At the end of March of this year it comes to an end.