decision to lower the initial price of grain for this crop year by some 20 per cent; that is, 19 per cent for wheat, 28 per cent for oats, and 25 per cent for barley.

Since credit decisions are being made now, lending institutions and farmers must be aware of what the Government proposes to do to provide some income guarantees in order that loans taken out now will have some chance of being repaid. The House should be aware that a 20 per cent reduction in gross incomes means that the vast majority of Canada's grain farmers are being sentenced to one more year without any pay for their labour. Payments were received from the Western Grain Stabilization Fund in the last two crop years. This year's pay-out will be similar to the one made last year, therefore, no funds to compensate for the price reduction can be expected by farmers or their lending institutions.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order! Just the facts.

Mr. Althouse: These are the facts.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: These are not the facts.

Mr. Althouse: In order to generate the funds necessary to repay money borrowed for crop expenses this year, banks will need some guarantees that the loans will be repaid. Since this year's stabilization pay-out will virtually empty the Western Grain Stabilization Fund, lenders and farmers need to know if the Government intends to keep the fund viable to respond to the price drop.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order! You're bootlegging in the wrong information.

Mr. Althouse: Since lenders are being extremely cautious about the future viability of many of their customers, I urge that you permit an emergency debate under Standing Order 29 to permit these issues to be presented for response by the Government. The future of Canada's farmers is at stake and communities will suffer. We need to know the answers now.

Mr. Speaker: The House will know that I have given earlier consideration to two of these matters. I propose to reserve on this application.

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[*Translation*]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 105 and 535.

[*Text*]

MINISTER'S STAFF

Question No. 105—**Mr. Kaplan:**

As of the date this question is answered and by Cabinet Minister, how many officials seconded from the Public Service, Crown corporations, agencies or other federal bodies are employed on the Minister's staff and, in each case, what is the salary range?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): I am informed as follows:

Minister	Number	Salary Range
Prime Minister's Office	1	$24,999 to $27,172
Employment and Immigration	2	$35,498 to $51,320
	1	$45,702 to $51,591
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	1	$24,271 to $26,563
Transport	1	$21,533 to $23,552
	1	$23,019 to $25,175
Finance	1	$41,663 to $52,099
Consumer and Corporate Affairs	1	$32,588 to $36,734
State – Mines	1	$43,793 to $50,106
	1	$45,702 to $51,591
Other Ministers:	None	

DEFICIT

Question No. 535—**Mr. Althouse:**

1. What is the amount of the current accumulated federal deficit?

2. What is the average level of interest being paid on the deficit?

3. Was money borrowed to cover the deficit and, if so, what amount is outstanding in increments of interest at (a) 20% or more (b) 19% to 20% (c) 18% to 19% (d) 17% to 18% (e) 16% to 17% (f) 15% to 16% (g) 14% to 15% (h) 13% to 14% (i) 12% to 13% (j) 11% to 12% (k) 10% to 11% (l) 9% to 10% (m) 8% to 9% (n) 7% to 8% (o) 6% to 7% (p) 5% to 6% (q) 4% to 5% (r) 3% to 4%?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): (1) The accumulated federal deficit or net public debt as of March 31, 1985, amounted to $191.4 billion. Financial assets amounted to $41.1 billion and gross liabilities to $232.6 billion, of which $172.4 billion was in the form of unmatured public debt. The figures are as reported in the 1984/85 Public Accounts and do not reflect the accounting changes shown in the February, 1986 budget documents.

(2) The average interest rate on unmatured debt as of March 31, 1985 amounted to 11.31 per cent.

(3) The accumulated deficit together with financial assets acquired, less funds acquired through specified purpose accounts and other miscellaneous liabilities, have been fianaced by the issue of public debt.

Interest rates on the Canadian dollar components of public debt as of March 31, 1985 were as follows. The amount of outstanding domestic marketable bonds (in billions of dollars) classified by interest rate payable was: (a) above 20%—nil; (b) 19-20%—nil; (c) 18-19%—$0.1; (d) 17-18%—$0.3; (e) 16-17% –nil; (f) 15-16%—$4.9; (g) 14-15%—$3.1; (h) 13-14%—$12.9; (i) 12-13%—$11.5; (j) 11-12%—$14.8; (k) 10-11%—$13.6; (l) 9-10%—$6.1; (m) 8.9%—$1.4; (n) 7-8%—nil; (o) 6-7%—$0.3; (p) 5-6%—$0.8; (q) 4-5%—nil; (r) 3-4%—$0.2. The average interest rate on Treasury bills ($52.3 billion) was 10.89 per