

am naturally very upset at the newspaper reports of this incident. We are looking into the matter to see whether the circumstances are as described. If they are and, if appropriate, I will personally see that the bed is returned with appropriate apologies from Revenue Canada Taxation.

#### APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister change the regulations which allow his officials to carry on these storm-trooper tactics and make those changes public? We understood this was supposed to have changed with the change of Government.

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I would caution my friend opposite not to jump to too many conclusions on this matter. As he knows, the Department is in a bit of a dilemma because we are charged by law with making every effort to protect the taxpayers' interests, particularly when it comes to SRTC investigations, of which this was a part. The actual seizure was effected by sheriff's deputies. I am trying to find out for certain what part Revenue Canada officials played and whether they failed to exercise proper judgment. If they did, and if it is appropriate that there be redress and apologies, I repeat that this will be done.

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#### AGRICULTURE

##### PROPOSED UNITED STATES FARM BILL—PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the Prime Minister's meeting with President Reagan last week. Can the Minister tell us what agreements were reached with the President of the U.S. concerning the U.S. Farm Bill which will have a devastating impact on Canadian farmers by reducing net farm income by some 20 per cent? What actual agreements were reached between the President and the Prime Minister?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Prime Minister, as is obvious, is not in the House today. He is in Oshawa. I was in Europe attending a NATO meeting and our paths have not crossed since. If the hon. gentleman wants an inventory of agreements that have been reached, if reached, he will have to await the return to the House of the Right Hon. Prime Minister, or when the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs is in his seat.

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of great national concern, especially in western Canada. Is the Minister saying that the Government is satisfied that it did not get a commitment from the President of the

U.S. that their bonus program for grain would not be used against Canada and its traditional trading partners?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** One thing I am satisfied of, Sir, is the vigour with which our agricultural interests are being put forward in the U.S. by the Minister of Agriculture, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This is a very refreshing increase in activity over what we saw in the two decades prior to our taking office in 1984.

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● (1430)

#### FINANCE

##### CLOSURE OF GRIFFITH IRON ORE MINE—TAX TREATMENT OF LAID-OFF WORKERS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I direct my question to the Minister of State for Finance. The Minister of Finance announced in Hamilton last week that he does not intend to extend to the people of Ear Falls area, caught in the closure of the Griffith Iron Ore Mine, any of the tax relief which he promised to these workers in his 1985 Budget Speech as well as his 1984 economic statement. Will the Minister of State for Finance tell the house if the statement in Hamilton represents the Minister of Finance's final decision and, if it does, what justification could he offer for renegeing on these promises to provide tax relief on severance pay and other closure benefits paid to laid-off workers?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has reached his decision on this. I think it is important to point out that these cases are considered on a case-by-case basis. They are treated equally in that the same criteria are brought to bear, but since there are frequently different facts it can lead to different results on a case by case basis.

#### PLIGHT OF WORKERS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if then it is the Ministry of Finance's position that the Ear Falls area is not isolated and that there are other jobs in the area, and if that is the position it takes will the Minister of Finance go up to the area and tell the people where the jobs are, because they sure cannot find them?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I should point out that it is a mine that is being closed, it is not a town that is being closed. The same criteria were brought to bear on this as have been brought to bear on other cases of this nature. There are a number of programs, federal and provincial, that have been specifically designed to help in such a situation.