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to meet new mortgage payments are eligible, after June 28, to a maximum \$3,000 non-taxable cash grant. That is another commitment. In the November budget, the Minister also announced a new rental housing construction incentive program offering interest-free loans of up to \$7,500 per unit for 15,000 units allocated to those regions of the country where the housing market was tight. What did we do? We kept our promises, Mr. Speaker. In the end, that program was available to 15,000 owners in areas with a high unemployment rate so as to enable people to renovate their home. This program has a leverage effect on personal expenditures and was aimed at creating 10,000 jobs; in addition, it did cost \$30 million, we supported that program and met our commitments. The budget provided also that this measure would be implemented immediately and that any buyer of a new house whose construction would begin before December 31, 1982 would be entitled to a \$3,000 cash grant. What did we do? That is what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, and this program has been extended until March 31, 1983. It has been estimated that 100,000 buyers will be eligible for that grant and that the Government will spend about \$300 million. The annual grant for non-profit rental housing has been extended from 25,000 to 27,500 units in 1982, a measure which will cost \$10 million.

There is yet another commitment. Farmers and small businesses are particularly hard hit by soaring prices and this Government is aware of their problems. To lend them a helping hand, the maximum amount available under the Small Businesses Loans Act and the Farm Improvement Loans Act will be raised to \$100,000. The Government is considering the possibility of introducing other similar measures. That was one of the commitments in the Speech from the Throne. What did we do, Mr. Speaker?

Pursuant to Bill C-27 to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act which was given Royal Assent on June 27, 1980, the program was extended for three more years and the \$75,000 limit on loans has been raised to \$100,000.

Bill C-17 to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act was also given Royal Assent on June 27, 1980 so that this piece of legislation would remain in force until June 30, 1982. The \$75,000 maximum loan limit was raised as well to \$100,000, which brings up to \$850 million the total guaranteed loans available during that period.

Under Bill C-122 to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act, passed on July 23, 1982, the termination date for loans to be guaranteed was extended from June 30, 1982 to March 31, 1983, an additional nine months.

In the June 82 budget \$400 million were earmarked for investment grants to allow small businesses to reduce interest payments on their loans. Eligibility extended also to farmers and fishermen. The rebate, which amounted to a maximum of 4 per cent and was applicable over a period of two years was aimed at financing new investments and industrial research. In addition to the special program of assistance to farmers in financial difficulty announced in the June 82 budget speech,

\$200 million have been allocated to the Farm Credit Corporation for loans. Under that program too, for a period of two years following the authorization of the loan, the borrower will be granted an interest rate 4 per cent lower than the current rate of the Farm Credit Corporation, as is the case for loans granted under the Small Business Development Bond Program.

Here is another commitment by the Government. The Government will ask Parliament «to give urgent consideration to legislation raising the Guaranteed Income Supplement to the Old Age Security pension by \$35 a month per household by July of this year.» What have we done in that regard, Mr. Speaker? Bill C-16, an Act to amend the Old Age Security Act which received royal assent on June 5, 1980, provides for a \$35 monthly increase of the Guaranteed Income Supplement for each household and of the spouse allowance effective July 1, 1980.

Furthermore, you will note that the legislation aimed at limiting the indexation of Old Age Security payments announced in the budget speech of June 1980 did not affect the recipients of the GIS who get a supplement to the GIS payment equivalent to the full indexation.

Yet another commitment: The "Government intends to convene a National Pension Conference in the fall . . . To start this process, [the] Government will soon release a major study on the Canadian pension system." What have we done in that regard, Mr. Speaker? The National Pension Conference was held in Ottawa in March and April of 1981. A thorough study on the Canadian pension system is in the works. It should be released fairly soon in the form of a Green Book.

Here is another commitment I would like to mention: "One of the essential objectives of [the] Government is to put more people to work . . . There will be an increased effort to develop critical trade skills so as to better prepare today's labour force for tomorrow's jobs. Expanding native opportunities and training women for new occupations will receive strong emphasis." What have we done, Mr. Speaker?

The Government has also undertaken to improve the operation of the unemployment insurance program and has suggested amendments which will make it more workable in the eighties. The Government has launched all kinds of programs, the Canada Community Services Projects for instance, and the Canada Community Development Projects. The Canadian Government announced on January 22, 1982, a supplementary apportionment of \$33.7 million to be added to the \$113.4 million previously announced.

The Industry and Labour Adjustment Program is another scheme which has been put forward by the Department of Employment and Immigration for a three-year period and to which have been earmarked \$350 million. This program was jointly announced in January 1981 by four federal Departments. The Portable Wage Subsidy Program which is part of