

The member, now Minister of Grains and Oilseeds, was incensed in 1984, stating: "I see no reason why the government should not have shown a little bit of faith in Canadian agriculture. It could have said we are going to guarantee that prices are the same as they were last year".

What was that decline in initial payments that so incensed the member? Let me quote again his own words: "We see grain prices reduced substantially—on a percentage basis 5 per cent or 6 per cent. That is significant".

Yet yesterday the same member announced initial payments for grain dropping 18 per cent for spring wheat, 16 per cent for Durum wheat and 26 per cent for malting barley. These are decreases of about \$25 per tonne from last year, decreases of \$35 per tonne from 1984, decreases that spell disaster for Canadian grain farmers.

This government's policies are destroying Canadian agriculture. This government is kissing off the Canadian family farm.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the government announced yesterday that the initial price for wheat this year would drop by \$30 per tonne to \$135. This is one of the lowest prices for wheat in history in real dollar terms, almost approaching the values of the 1930s.

On Monday of this week the Minister of Agriculture increased the Farm Credit Corporation lending rate to almost 15 per cent interest per annum. How does the Canadian government expect Canadian farmers to survive when American farmers will be receiving almost 50 per cent more for their wheat this year and be guaranteed that price at the time of planting?

This Tory government guarantees our farmers nothing, only more debt and higher interest rates. Surely it is almost criminal to be increasing the Farm Credit Corporation interest rate to 15 per cent while cutting the price of wheat by almost 20 per cent.

I call on the government to roll back these high interest rates on Farm Credit Corporation mortgages.

Oral Questions

CORPORATE TAXATION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, the nominees for the corporate welfare bum of the week did not pay any federal income taxes in 1988.

The first nominee is Algoma Steel which had tax-free profits of \$80 million.

Edper Enterprises, with profits of \$52 million, is the second nominee.

The third nominee is Hemlo Gold Mines.

The envelope, please.

The winner is Hemlo Gold Mines, which really struck it rich in 1988, getting a \$2.7 million tax credit on profits of \$43 million. This golden performance earns Hemlo Gold Mines the title of corporate welfare bum of the week.

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BILL C-21

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, training and adjustment programs were a major part of what the government promised Canadians during the last federal election. The government has proposed it through the Labour Force Development Strategy and Bill C-21. This House approved it as long ago as November 6 of last year.

Canadian workers need such help. They expect such help. They await such help.

More money for apprenticeship level training, more for co-op education and more for older workers and many others—\$800 million all told is ready to go to meet the needs of workers across the country.

I urge all hon. members, particularly those across the way, to do their utmost to persuade the Senate to see the light and pass Bill C-21.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General.