

Speaker's Ruling

practitioners and play an integrated part in comprehensive health services.

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TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AREAS

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, on October 27 the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas was made public. At the request of the Minister of Finance, its mandate was changed in mid-term from revenue neutral to a deficit cutting measure.

If the recommendations are implemented as proposed it would mean the loss of \$150 million in revenue for northern Canada and \$5 million for 75 towns in northern Ontario, not to mention those that should have qualified in the first place.

I strongly urge the minister to totally ignore the recommendations of the committee, as it would create financial hardships in areas which are already underserved. It would be a terrible blow to the morale of northern Ontarians who wholeheartedly strive to improve the quality of life in remote areas.

Moreover, we should be compensated for our efforts to bring prosperity in developing the natural resources which indeed do supply southern Ontario and the rest of Canada with forestry and mining products.

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WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, the western diversification program is helping entrepreneurs in western Canada. Last Friday I was privileged to officially announce, not grants but repayable contributions for four projects in the Red Deer area. All four of these projects are commendable, all will provide employment and improve or expand available services. One deserves special mention.

Every municipality in Canada should be aware that a Red Deer company has the North American rights for a process marketed under the name of Bomego-Dano. This process will take municipal waste; garbage and sewage, and treat it, recycle metals and glass and convert the bulk of the remainder to marketable humus material.

The need for large, wasteful landfill areas can be dramatically reduced.

All politicians talk of the environment. Here is a process to do something to improve it and the western diversification program is helping.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, this morning the Minister of Agriculture released the government's white paper on agricultural policy. While the white paper is said to be for discussion only and not an indication of government policy, farmers will nonetheless be disappointed.

The biggest problem faced by the agricultural industry at the moment is farm debt. Billions of dollars are owed by Canadian farmers at a time of low prices, drought and unfair competition in the vital export market. Despite these facts, the white paper has virtually nothing to say about how the government intends to lead the effort to solve the farm debt crisis.

The Farm Credit Corporation holds hundreds of thousands of acres of Saskatchewan farm land. The Farm Credit Corporation policy continues to drive many farm families off their farms. Surely farmers and all Canadians deserve to know what the government intends to do to stabilize farm land ownership. Is it the government's intention to continue to sit idly by while the Farm Credit Corporation and other financial institutions force countless farm families to lose their livelihoods and their homes?

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POINT OF ORDER*SUB JUDICE CONVENTION—SPEAKER'S RULING*

Mr. Speaker: The Chair would ask the indulgence of the House to render a decision on the matter raised yesterday by the hon. member for York Centre relating to the *sub judice* convention. I realize that this is an unusual time of the day but my decision will, in any case, impact on Question Period and I believe I should inform the House before the Question Period begins.

I should also advise that whatever time is taken to give this ruling will be extended and the Question Period will be the usual 45 minutes in length.