

*Oral Questions*WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT—INTERIM PAYMENT  
INQUIRY

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister was a Member of the House when it passed legislation which allowed interim payments under the Western Grain Stabilization Plan. Could he tell us when the farmers may expect an interim payment under this plan and how soon such payments will be made?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, we are also well along in the decision-making process with regard to what level the initial payments under the Western Grain Stabilization Act will be made. We hope to be in a position at about the same time to announce the size of the interim payment. We also hope that the cheques will be in the mail and the producers will have them prior to May 1.

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## INDUSTRY

## SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—MODERNIZATION PROJECT

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion I will direct my question to the political Minister responsible for Nova Scotia who is intimately aware of the Sysco modernization.

● (1450)

The people of eastern Nova Scotia have been waiting since July of 1984 for the Government to honour its commitment with regard to the modernization program.

On Monday, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion added two new conditions with which the Government of Nova Scotia must comply before the feds would participate; a new universal mill and the cost to cover the cost of restructuring the debt. In response to this, the Premier of Nova Scotia said: "The universal mill and debt were not part of the modernization agreement—never made a commitment to Ottawa on either item".

The Minister is responsible and ought to be intimately aware of all the deals and items on modernization. Would he tell us who is telling the truth, the Minister or the Premier of Nova Scotia?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows, I am sure, that the federal Government is still committed to assisting Sysco in terms of improving its production and efficiency as well as to reduce its annual operating costs. Those discussions are taking place with the Government of Nova Scotia. The manner in which this assistance will be provided, and the most appropriate form, are

part of the debate which is going on. However, the commitment is clearly there and I am sure that it will be resolved satisfactorily.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, in response to that answer my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I wish to quote the Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia in regard to the statement of his own Minister: "Getting tired of Ottawa and some of their foolish statements".

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Dingwall:** Members opposite may laugh but the people of eastern Nova Scotia are not laughing. They want to see—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Dingwall:** I ask the Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of labour, the business community and all those citizens of eastern Nova Scotia, will he dispatch the political Minister from Nova Scotia to Nova Scotia to meet with the Premier and resolve this issue this weekend?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue has taken an active interest in this issue and has been intimately involved. I simply want to advise the Hon. Member that the business plan which is comprised of several points is being considered. I can assure the Hon. Member that the assistance which is committed will be provided in the best form possible so that this particular steel mill can be efficient, productive, and provide long-term jobs.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The standing committee studying the Forget Commission report tabled a report in this House on March 18. The report made 90 recommendations, 89 of them unanimously. The Minister promised that the report of the Standing Committee will be given adequate consideration when he replies to the Forget Commission Report on May 15.

I have been reliably informed that the Minister appeared before the Cabinet Committee on Social Development and proposed a slashing of \$600 million to \$1 billion from the unemployment insurance program as well as recommending only four of the 89 recommendations of the standing committee. How does the Minister justify recommending to Cabinet