

What we have is clear evidence that the Treasury Board has not been very effective, indeed, perhaps not even willing to implement what slight steps towards affirmative action programs there have been in the past. One must have considerable doubt whether a Treasury Board will be any more effective when faced with the new responsibility of implementing affirmative action, or employment equity in the public service. It seems to me that there is increasing and mounting evidence that there needs to be the inclusion of the public service in this legislation. That evidence is the treatment that minority group members have experienced in recent weeks—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member. It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

LUBICON LAKE INDIAN BAND

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I draw to the attention of the House the plight of the Lubicon Indian Band in Alberta. This band is still fighting, in 1986, for land that was promised to it in 1940. That promise was made by the federal Government and that promise has been broken by the federal Government.

Our failure to fulfil our obligations to the Lubicon Indian Band has had devastating consequences. Powerless to exercise any control, the band has had to watch its way of life being systematically destroyed by oil development on its Members' traditional lands.

The band's claim is a legitimate one. It has been substantiated by the report of the Minister's own special negotiator.

I call upon the Government now to fulfil its responsibility to stand with the band and to negotiate a just and equitable settlement without any more delay.

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT—CALL FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, this morning in Winnipeg the Minister of State for the Canadian

S.O. 21

Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) announced a \$580 million pay-out to grain farmers under the Western Grain Stabilization Act. This payment has long been anticipated by western producers and it is greatly appreciated.

However, a number of points should be made. First, part of the money being paid out to the farmers is their own money that has been collected over the last five years. The timing and the amount of the payment are set according to provisions of the Act and are not the result of the largesse of the Government. The size of the pay-out indicates that there was a shortfall of \$600 million in the incomes of grain producers this year compared with the average of the last five years. Even knowing this shortfall, the Government has announced another 20 per cent reduction in the income of grain producers by the lower initial grain prices it has established.

It is imperative that the Government announce, in the next few days, a program of deficiency payments for the next crop year. Farmers are on the verge of seeding. They need to know their income prospects for the coming year so both they and their bankers can have some assurance that planting anything is worth while.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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ANIMAL WELFARE

TREATMENT OF ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo—Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of Members of the House that this week of April 14 to April 20 will be the second annual Animal Health Week. This occasion, sponsored by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, is to promote animal health care by means of good nutrition, hygiene, and preventive medicine, and to increase public awareness of the importance of animals in our lives. This Animal Health Week, as such, will focus on all types of animals, including food producing animals, work animals, research animals as well as pets.

It is particularly important to highlight the vital contribution of animals to agricultural and medical research. In this regard it is a fundamental responsibility of all researchers, particularly veterinarians, to ensure that animals used in research are humanely treated and well cared for.

If Animal Health Week can in some way improve the health and well-being of even a small proportion of the animal population, it will have served its purpose.