

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

## DISASTERS

## FATAL MINE ACCIDENT IN ELLIOT LAKE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning there was a tragic accident at the Rio Algom Panel Mine in Elliot Lake which took the life of Kevin Grondin. I want to extend our sympathy to his wife and family on this sad and tragic occasion.

This accident was the ninth in Ontario mines this year. It points out the dangers in mining and points to the need for continuous improvement to mining safety and health regulations.

I also want to pay tribute to the valiant efforts of six mine rescue teams of seven members each who worked around the clock from the time of the accident until the body of Mr. Grondin was found on Sunday around six o'clock. Their bravery and tremendous effort to save a fellow miner in the face of obvious danger are commendable.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NICARAGUA—ATTACK BY CONTRA FORCES ON CANADIAN AID PROJECT

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, last week Contra terrorists attacked a Canadian funded co-operative farm in Nicaragua killing 10 people, wounding eight, and kidnapping four. They destroyed homes, buildings and farm equipment. These terrorists are financed by the Reagan Government and by powerful right-wingers such as the anti-union owners of Coors beer.

The Contras are trying to turn the clock back to the dark days of the Somoza regime and the only way they know to do it is by cowardly attacks on community health centres, schools, co-operative farms and other development projects.

Because the farm was funded by Canadians through the Farmers for Peace organization, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) condemned the raid. However, Canada must do more than issue a vague condemnation. We need to protest, in the strongest terms, to the Reagan Government. Its funding of the Contras is cowardly and despicable and must be so named by any Government that claims to stand for the development ideals of the Canadian people.

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## AGRICULTURE

## SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM—CALL FOR INCLUSION OF HAY PRODUCERS

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, the farmers who produce hay were denied assistance under the Special Canadian Grains Program last fall but here are some sound reasons why they should be included in the pay-out this spring. Barley crops were subsidized under the program and, as a result, barley was sold to feeders at a cheaper rate than hay. Feeders are the main market for hay. In addition, grain farmers cut poor crops and sold them as green feed. Again, because it was subsidized the green feed was sold at a lower price than hay.

Just as subsidization of agricultural products by the EEC and U.S.A. put our grain farmers in a position where the selling price is below the cost of production, the Canadian government subsidization has placed our hay producers in the same position. As a result the price of hay is now one-third of what it was. In desperation the hay farmers turned to the export market but found the Americans were subsidizing compressed hay, and so they lost out again.

Hay producers cannot compete against government money any more than can any other farmer. The bottom line is that we destroy this needed segment of agriculture with government subsidies to its competitors, or we include hay producers in the Special Canadian Grains Program. Which will it be?

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[Translation]

## THE ADMINISTRATION

## AWARDING OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, for some people, as we know, the time period since the 1984 elections has been very difficult. But for other Canadians, this period under the Conservative régime has been rewarding.

I want to say that one of these people who has become richer at the expense of the public and Canadian taxpayers is Mr. Roger Nantel. Today, as a matter of fact, the media report that Mr. Nantel is alleged to have been awarded untendered contracts valued at more than \$4 million.

Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand one of these contracts for \$46,200. I will tell you what Mr. Nantel was expected to do to earn this money: take part in the preparation and drafting of a summary brief; coordinate the organization of a poll; coordinate slide composition and reproduction services; write speeches; prepare an audiovisual presentation for March 26, 1986. As I said earlier, he was paid \$46,200 for these services.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) should apologize to the House for spending public funds this way.