

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 28, 1983

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

AGRICULTURE

WESTERN FARMERS' TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Madam Speaker, while farmers, particularly those in the West, are struggling just to survive, the federal Cabinet may actually approve a proposal which would serve to worsen the prairie producers' financial bind. As though it were not enough to propose huge increases in rail transportation costs over the next three years, the Government may now increase the cost of moving grain and other commodities along the St. Lawrence Seaway. Any such rate increase would be paid largely out of the pockets of prairie farmers. But these people absolutely cannot tolerate any further financial burdens.

Let me remind this House of the transportation costs western farmers already face. Collectively, farmers pay about \$150 million each year to move their grain by rail. Under the Western Grain Transportation Act they will be compelled to pay an additional \$219 million over the next three years. Add to that the \$24 million which farmers currently contribute toward St. Lawrence Seaway tolls. Even a 5 per cent increase, which is within the Government's restraint guidelines, is asking too much. Indeed, Canadian farmers must be asking themselves where it will all end. Unfortunately for some of them it will end in bankruptcy, unless the Government wakes up to the serious financial problems facing Canada's farmers.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LEBANON—OCCUPATION BY PLO AND SYRIAN FORCES

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, the fact is well known that Lebanon has for many years been a scene of civil war between warring factions. The fact that the heavily armed PLO has been implanted into Lebanon by the Syrians and Soviets is well known. That the PLO served as a force which finally destroyed any semblance of sovereignty and authority by the Government of Lebanon is also well known. That the PLO conducted a reign of terror over the people of Lebanon,

especially against the Christians and, armed with Soviet arms, used southern Lebanon as a base from which to conduct attacks against Israel is well known. That the PLO used Lebanon as a sanctuary and, under the pretense of the sovereign borders of Lebanon, used it as a shield from behind which to conduct its raids against Israel is well known.

Mr. Prud'homme: What about Shamir?

Mr. de Corneille: That the PLO and Syria have occupied and dominated Lebanon for years as occupying powers is well known. That Israel has tried to get protection, from the terrorist attacks, from the West is well known. That the presence of Israel in Lebanon is the only hope for a deal to eliminate foreign forces from Lebanon is well known.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Shamir is well known.

Mr. de Corneille: Why then has our Department of External Affairs not moved in the past to condemn the presence of the parasite PLO in Lebanon and the Syrian invaders, and demanded the withdrawal of Syria and the PLO? Why is the double standard now once again applied against Israel? Condescending statements are made castigating Israel for its presence in Lebanon, and calling upon Israel to withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon. Madam Speaker, such an unfair, unrealistic, and bankrupt policy is a disgrace.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Leeds-Grenville.

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HOUSING

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, contractors all across Canada are being solicited by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to build and promote super energy efficient homes under the R-2000 Program. However, we have here yet another example of the blatant mismanagement of public funds in the operation of this Program.

The federal Government's official in Toronto who was assigned the duty of co-ordinating the R-2000 homes has provided very little of the agreed upon assistance for the builders despite their repeated attempts to get the Liberal Government to live up to its end of the contract. The assistance promised to them in promoting and selling the R-2000 homes has fallen far short of its goal. The advertising for the program was held up by the Minister himself up until two