

S.O. 21

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

## NEW POLICY ON MOVEMENT OF GRAIN

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière):** Madam Speaker, with respect to the new grain transportation policy, not long ago, a telegram was sent by members of the Quebec coalition requesting a meeting with the federal authorities responsible for implementing the new policy.

Madam Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I can inform the House, and all Quebec farmers as well, that the Federal Government has responded favourably to this request and that yesterday, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) sent a telex to Mr. Jacques Proulx, General President of the FPU, in which he said, on behalf of his colleagues, that he was agreeable to meeting spokesmen of the groups that have a special interest in this matter, namely, the FPU, the Coopérative fédérée du Québec, the Association professionnelle des meuniers du Québec, the Association des négociants en céréales du Québec and the Order of Agronomists. Now, Madam Speaker, and I think my constituents and Quebec farmers ought to know this, representatives for the parties concerned will have to agree on a date. Perhaps it would be advisable to have economists on both sides meet to discuss the various figures being mentioned by politicians and critics, in order to make this meeting a productive one and to find the best possible solution for further developing the agro-food industry in Quebec and not merely ensuring its survival.

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## AGRICULTURE

## NEW GRAIN TRANSPORT POLICY—QUEBEC FARMERS' ANXIETIES

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, on the same subject, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to add to the statement made by the Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Dubois) and say that this morning, I was speaking to representatives of the FPU who were still concerned about the proposals made by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) with respect to grain transportation. In the circumstances, I understand the Hon. Member's invitation and his optimism, but I would like to ask all Members from Quebec to tell Quebec farmers that nothing will be done until an agreement has been reached with representatives of the major groups mentioned earlier by the Hon. Member for Lotbinière, including the Coopérative fédérée and the FPU, and in fact with all farmers and those involved in farm-related industries.

I honestly hope that on the Government side, Hon. Members will see to it that no legislation is tabled until there has been a concerted effort to respond satisfactorily to the expectations of

people across Canada. Quebec is of course affected by this question and has every reason to be concerned. I also hope that Government Members will make sure that Quebec's interests are not jeopardized, because it is now clear that there is not enough information to warrant going any further with the policy being proposed by the Minister of Transport.

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## AGRICULTURE

## UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR APPLE GROWERS—APPLICATION OF AID POLICY TO QUEBEC GROWERS

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans):** Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House, and especially of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), that apple growers in Eastern Canada and especially in Quebec, are in very serious financial difficulty. As a result of severe weather conditions during the winter of 1980-81, more than 300,000 apple trees, in other words, one third of the total number in Quebec, were lost. To illustrate the extent of this disaster, I may point out that normally, apples represent more than 70 per cent of the total value of fruit sales in Quebec. Furthermore, the Quebec apple industry's annual turnover has dropped to \$12 million from an annual \$22 million before nature struck so mercilessly.

I therefore urge the Minister of Agriculture to take a look at the policy followed by the Government in helping apple growers in British Columbia, in the 60's and farmers in the Prairie Provinces when they were struck by drought in 1980, and to meet the request for financial compensation submitted by Quebec apple growers, whose losses have been estimated at \$62 million. Since it has been three months since the Department of Agriculture received all the necessary data to make a decision in this case, a decision is indeed long overdue, and one that will be in the best interests of apple growers in Eastern Canada.

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[English]

## INCOME TAX

## COMPLEXITY OF FORM DEALING WITH INVESTMENT BORROWING

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, in his literally mad endeavour to ensure that every nickel of possible income tax is paid, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Bussi eres) has created a horror show in Form T-2219. This particular form demands that an investor who has borrowed money to make an investment specifically set out the exact relationship between the borrowed money and the investment, balancing each borrowing against each investment.