

S. O. 21

We now have proof that international transboundary agreements to preserve the environment are attainable. A similar agreement for acid rain must be forthcoming in North America before we drown in our own industrial excrement.

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HOUSING

HOUSING NEEDS OF URBAN NATIVE PEOPLE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the International Conference on Shelter for the Homeless has come and gone without any action being announced by the Government. We would have expected a whole plethora of announcements to deal with multi-problems that were dealt with at the conference. Maybe the Government just lacked ideas and did not know what to do. I would like to give the Government suggestions for at least one area.

Let us take the area of housing for urban native people, an area crying out for action. Is the Government not aware that the infrastructure is in place to deliver housing? We have some 80 urban native housing corporations across the country which are presently delivering 1,000 units. Why does the Government not double that number, add another 1,000 new units, in order to deal with this crisis in housing? This would show that the Government is putting a priority on the needs of people and that it is ready to act and not just talk.

It is time for action, Mr. Speaker. I wish the Government would put a priority on the question of the homeless in Canada and recognize that it can do something concrete and immediate for urban native people.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PETITE-NATION REGION—GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the Minister of Employment and Immigration travelled to Papineauville, in my beautiful constituency, to announce the participation of 19 municipalities to the Community Development Program.

Thanks to that program, a business assistance centre will be set up as early as November 1, 1987, with \$1.5 million funding to help provide businesses with local technical and advisory services, and also with financial assistance in the form of loans of up to \$75,000. Moreover, a community development assistance committee made up of 12 Members will receive a \$200,000 subsidy to realistically appraise the opportunities for development and diversification of our rural economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is another example of this Government's success in fighting unemployment, especially among the young, and a further example of this Government's commitment to private enterprise.

Thanks to that program, the Petite-Nation area can take up the challenge of full employment and ensure its economic and social development. This is one of the best news the Papineauville area has received over the last decade, and this was made possible by a Conservative Government!

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● (1410)

[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, last week a poll was made public which indicated that 33 per cent of grain farmers and cash-crop farmers are expecting to have to leave their land within two years. This is a devastating poll which was carried out across the country. It comes at a time when the Government has not taken any action to replace the financial security and position of the Farm Credit Corporation.

The Farm Credit Corporation went into a negative equity position of \$124 million last April and the Government has failed to act for six months. How can the Farm Credit Corporation, which is designed to help Canadian farmers who are in financial difficulty, help them when in fact it has been allowed to go broke and no action has been taken by the Government for six months?

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THE ECONOMY

GROWTH IN 1984-1987 PERIOD

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, since September, 1984, the Government has followed an economic renewal program that has shown great results across the country. The litany of successes includes the creation of 907,000 jobs with over 88 per cent of these full-time, an unemployment rate down from 11.7 per cent to 8.8 per cent, interest rates at their lowest in years, housing starts at their highest level in eight years, consumer spending and confidence up, and investors enjoying a return to a stable economic environment.

With our responsible policy of deficit reduction, Canadians have seen the deficit fall from a record \$38.3 billion in the last year of the Liberal administration to \$29.3 billion this fiscal