

S.O. 21

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

THE BUDGET

EFFECT ON ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the May 23 Budget brought down by the Government is bitter medicine for eastern Canada. When the Members from the Atlantic provinces toured the region last week, we heard from angry and frustrated Canadians, people who have less money in their pockets because of the Budget. Farmers say higher gas taxes and user fees for potato inspection will force farmers off the land. They are also afraid that the Maritime Feed Freight Assistance Program will be reduced or eliminated.

Tourist operators are scared of higher ferry rates, increased National Park fees, higher taxes on gas, cigarettes, and alcohol. They say that they will be operating in the red by the end of the season.

Fishermen are still smarting from a cut of \$40 million last fall. How will a further reduction of \$25 million affect their business? Fisheries research and development programs need more money. Programs for small craft harbours and vessel subsidies need more money, not less.

P.E.I. has the highest rate per capita of senior citizens in the country. They are not standing for deindexing; they are fighting back. The three Atlantic Tory Premiers agree with those people. They agree that the Maritimes got the short end of the stick in the Budget. They said so at the Council of Maritime Premiers' meeting held yesterday and today in Prince Edward Island.

It is time for the Members on the government side to stand up and speak in their caucus, to speak in the House and tell the Government that they will no longer tolerate the shabby treatment Atlantic Canadians are getting from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Government.

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INDUSTRY

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, the Government must come clean on aid for White Farm Equipment Ltd. For weeks the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) has avoided direct questions on this issue with assurances about consultation and private sector financing. There has been little concrete action, and the June 14 deadline is fast approaching.

If the Minister has arranged private sector financing, let him say so today. If none is available, he should announce that the Government is prepared to step in with loan guarantees.

The Minister has heard the president of White Farm Equipment Ltd. put his case. The financial picture is clear. He need not consult further with the workers. They have demonstrated full support for Mr. Sinclair, the president. He does not have to discuss the matter with small business. All suppliers have told him White Farm is vital to their health. He need not consult Members of this House. Many have sent letters to the Minister urging support for White Farm Equipment.

What are we waiting for? The Minister must simply make his recommendation to Cabinet, and the Government must demonstrate the political will to save those jobs. I ask him to consider this. White Farm is a Canadian company. It does research and development in Canada. White Farm's Canadian workers are bringing new technology into production. Even a depressed market has seen the value of White Farm's new products increase its market share. That is a Canadian success story that the Government must continue to support.

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EMPLOYMENT

LONDON UNEMPLOYED HELP CENTRE—PROVISION OF WORK BOOTS

Mr. Tom Hockin (London West): Mr. Speaker, last month, after a dark year and a half searching for a job, a virtually penniless constituent of mine was brightened by a job offer on a construction site in London. When he reported for his first day on the job, it was apparent that he was not wearing work boots. He was sent home, and his job was put in jeopardy.

A new pair of steel-toed work boots is an expensive proposition for an unemployed worker. The House may be wondering why I am recounting this story this afternoon. I want to share it with my colleagues because there is a solution to this problem as developed by an organization in my riding, called the Unemployed Help Centre.

This non-profit organization has established a work boot depository that makes used work boots available to those in need, for use on their new jobs. The initial reserve was generated by labour councils and others who contributed used work boots. This unique program has proved to be very useful in London. I am certain that it would be similarly useful elsewhere, and I would like to commend it to this House and encourage my colleagues to establish similar programs in their constituencies.