

replying to a serious telegram, I must ask the minister again when he can give us an answer because it seems the producers need a reply on whether or not they will get financial assistance with regard to their 1979-80 crop whose proceeds are inadequate.

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, the potato growers in eastern regions who have suffered because of low prices should receive some information before too many days or weeks go by. I believe the payment per hundredweight is being tabulated now, but I do not have the figures with me because I do not think they are finalized at the present time. It all depends upon what percentage we use, whether 90 per cent of the average of the last five years using current input costs, or 100 per cent of the average of the last five years using current input costs. That has yet to be decided.

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### POINTS OF ORDER

#### MR. BROADBENT—PRESS REPORTS OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order pertaining to an exchange which I had with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) earlier in reference to quotations from the last election campaign. The Prime Minister is correct that I first raised the issue last Friday in reference to the *Toronto Star*. In the February 11, 1980, edition of the *Toronto Star*, the Prime Minister was reported as saying:

I would want to manage the economy in such a way that interest rates would in fact come down—

Two days later they rose by 2.5 points.

**Mr. Lalonde:** They have gone down.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I point out to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) that they have not come down. Two days later, just to indicate that it was not a slip, as reported in the February 13, 1980, edition of *The Globe and Mail*, the Prime Minister was quoted as saying:

—we would keep interest rates down and we would make sure that they go lower by controlling inflation.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I accept the quotations of the hon. member. I think that the thrust of the interview—and, of course, I will dig it out—was that there was no direct way in which we could promise low interest rates, but we could take various measures such as having lower energy prices and a sound budgetary policy which would work toward lowering interest rates. In fact we had lower interest rates following that election, as the hon. member will recall. The situation since then on the international sphere has developed, as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) indicated, where there is a very strong upward pressure on interest rates

which has nothing to do with our management of the economy—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Don't be foolish.

**Mr. Trudeau:** — but with events developing in other parts of the world.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** So, I think the hon. member has established what I said, that we did not promise lower interest rates.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Why don't you read the report of the Economic Council of Canada?

**Mr. Trudeau:** We promised to manage the economy in a manner which would tend to lower the pressure on interest rates. In fact, as the Minister of Finance indicated, we have managed in that way—

**An hon. Member:** Herb Gray promised to resign.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —and the proof is that the interest rates in Canada are substantially lower than those of our major trading partner.

[Translation]

**Madam Speaker:** I cannot see how that intervention can possibly be interpreted as a point of order. In any event, there has been an exchange between the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) which, I imagine, further enlightened the citizens of Canada.

[English]

#### MR. CLARK—ALL-PARTY AGREEMENT ON EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE TO FAMILY OF THE LATE JOHN LENNON

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a new point of order. During oral questions the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) referred to seeking the agreement of the House of Commons to express its condolence and sadness to the family of the late John Lennon. Our party was consulted on this matter earlier this week by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong), and we agreed to support such a motion.

I simply want to indicate now that our House leader would be most pleased to meet with his counterparts to arrange a suitable expression of the sadness of the entire House of Commons at the sudden death and passing of a great and creative world artist.

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, under the circumstances, I would like to be allowed to move the same motion which has already been put and with the unanimous consent of the House I take it for granted that the motion will be presented by the Chair and passed by the House.