

• (1415)

THE LATE RABBI ABRAHAM FEINBERG

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, last Sunday Rabbi Abraham Feinberg of Holy Blossom Temple, Canada's largest Reform Jewish Congregation, passed away at the age of 87.

For 33 years Rabbi Feinberg was a determined man who championed any cause which affected the disadvantaged of our society. He was a natural leader who led the fight for world peace from Canada. He fought hard for the elimination of poverty, for an effective and constructive role for the aged, and for racial harmony. Rabbi Feinberg was the social conscience of our society, and Canada was truly fortunate to have had this outstanding individual make very significant contributions to our society.

To all individuals who will be paying their respects at tomorrow's memorial service honouring this great man at Holy Blossom Temple, I wish to add Canada's.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

PORT OF VANCOUVER LOCK-OUT—EFFECT ON GRAIN PRODUCERS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It relates to the crisis affecting western grain producers. Of course the latest threat is the lock-out in the Port of Vancouver. The Government should have been able to anticipate this situation for months. Of course the union has been in a legal position to strike for the last two weeks. Why is it that the Government has been so inactive to this date, failing to anticipate an additional major crisis affecting our grain producers?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, within hours of a negotiated settlement or tentative settlement in Thunder Bay, we were faced with a lock-out situation at the Vancouver and Prince Rupert ports, mainly over the container clause. Today we sent a telex to the authorities of the ports to ask them to let the grain be transported, particularly because it does not concern the container clause and also because of the willingness of the longshoremen to transport grain.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY WHERE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND FUNDS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, again concerning the crisis in the grain industry, I should like once more to direct a question to the Prime Minister with respect to payments to grain producers.

What does the Prime Minister intend to do to find the funds required for these payments? Increase the deficit, slash other farm programs, or reduce social programs?

[English]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the program to which I referred on Friday will be financed within the fiscal framework in the same way that we financed such new initiatives as the fuel tax rebate, drought assistance, and commodity-based loans, for example, assistance to sugar-beet farmers. I would point out that we have been able to respond to these needs in the past at the same time that we have been able to maintain our spending targets. The program about which we have been talking will put a billion dollars of increased cash flow into the hands of Canadian farmers beyond that which they are now receiving.

SOURCE AND DELIVERY OF FUNDING

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if there is an additional cash flow to farmers, it either comes at the expense of the deficit of the Minister of Finance, or from a reallocation of other programs already dedicated to farmers, or at the expense of some other program. Where is the new money coming from, and when will western farmers receive that money?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I have already indicated that we are meeting on Thursday and that we hope to have further meetings with the leaders of the agricultural organizations beyond that. This is new money in the hands of farmers, and I know my right hon. friend will not oppose that.

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EMPLOYMENT

PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION—MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday in his speech to the House the Minister suggested that the private sector, the provinces, and individuals should have the principal responsibility for job training and job creation in Canada. In abdicating his federal responsibility in this respect, was the Minister forecasting further cut-backs in the federal employment