

This makes clear that there is no reason in the case of a federal matter such as family allowances to invade the jurisdiction of the provinces.

In my remaining minute I should like to point out that we are continuing to obtain new information from groups which want to be heard on this subject. Groups are bringing forward their difficulties on child searches and the presumption of death. As a result, we would suggest that either our proposal be adopted or that the entire section be dropped. It would be far better not to have any section on it than to proceed with the present proposal of the Government.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before calling it one o'clock, I should like to indicate that the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) will have three minutes remaining in her speech when orders of the day are called.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m., the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[English]

#### AGRICULTURE

##### BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT GROWERS—STABILIZATION PAYMENTS ADVOCATED

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House a grave injustice which the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) and the Government have inflicted on B.C. fruit growers. This is an association of some 1,800 producers in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia who have been facing very tough times this last couple of years due to depressed fruit prices, high input costs, and falling land values. Indeed the financial distress in this group of producers is even worse than the national farm debt figures as reported by the Farm Credit Corporation.

They applied for assistance under the Agricultural Stabilization Act for the 1983 apple crop and would have qualified for this if the regular criteria of 90 per cent had been applied. The Minister of Agriculture applied a factor of 80 per cent, thus effectively shutting these hard pressed producers out of \$2 million worth of stabilization payments, payments that were desperately needed and are needed right now.

Many of these producers, especially some of the younger ones who bought their orchards in the late 1970s, are facing foreclosure this very winter. I call on the Government to

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reverse this decision which is unprecedented, unfair, and outright banditry by the Government of Canada of a benefit which is due and payable to these B.C. fruit growers.

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#### MINES AND MINING

##### DENISON MINES LTD. WITHDRAWAL FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTHEAST COAL PROJECT

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Mines (Mr. Layton) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) have some explaining to do to the people of Canada. It was announced yesterday that Denison Mines, half owner of Quintette Coal Ltd. in northeast British Columbia, is writing off its entire \$240 million investment in that project. Mr. Speaker, this could hardly be considered a major surprise. The northeast coal project has been bad news from the beginning. It was only a matter of time before investors acknowledged what independent mining analysts have said all along. Even the most diehard Tory and Socred should have realized something was wrong when a provincial Socred cabinet Minister in British Columbia admitted that the hole was in the wrong place.

Still the Conservative Government pressed on, and the federal Government aided and abetted its kissing cousin in B.C. It has imposed a monstrous fraud on the citizens of British Columbia.

When I raised the question of the federal Government's half a billion dollar investment in infrastructure for that boondoggle last May, the Minister of State for Mines referred to it as, and I quote, "growing pains only related to startup conditions". Growing pains, Mr. Speaker! Death throes would be a more accurate description. Not only have the federal and provincial Governments wasted billions of dollars of taxpayers' money but they have also been responsible for devastating the economy of southeastern British Columbia. Mr. Speaker, isn't it time the Government acknowledges this project is a fiasco? If they are honest with the people of Canada, these two Ministers, especially the Minister from British Columbia, will admit to this the House that their ideological soulmates in British Columbia couldn't run a peanut stand.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF RUSSIAN FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, as the world focuses on the resumption of the Geneva talks, we must all continue in our efforts to encourage the peace process. However, on the periphery of those talks, conflicts around the world continue to warrant our attention.