

No. Yes. You know it is tough when I look back to all the problems of my predecessors”.

The problem my friend referred to, he adopted a policy when he was Minister of Finance of letting the dollar seek its own level. That was a policy that has been endorsed by industrialized countries since the Second World War, and we think it is an appropriate one.

Now he says that when he was Minister of Finance he chose not to borrow abroad. He did not have to. He printed money recklessly, as a result of which the debt of Canada increased by 1,100 per cent in 15 years. The Leader of the Opposition is an architect of the destruction of public finances in Canada, and everybody with a brain in his head knows it.

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#### TRADE

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

This government keeps telling Canadians that we have free access to the U.S. market. However, fresh fish shipments are held up at the border by as much as three days, softwood lumber shippers now have to post bonds, shippers of breeding livestock are held up and detained as long as three days, and now we have a tremendous increase in the live hog—pork countervail.

This is nothing but harassment. Is this what this government means by free market access?

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the difficulty with softwood lumber at the border. I think there has been considerable confusion on the part of the United States as to exactly what the softwood lumber arrangement should be, but we have made our representations to them and we have been guaranteed that there will be no further hold-ups.

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister as well.

That answer indicates to the House that they are aware. What we want to know is what is going to be done. A Canadian pork producer today receives \$110 for a hog, but in order to sell that hog into the United States that

producer has to pay the United States government \$24 Canadian.

My question is: Is this free trade? Is this market access? Is this fair?

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, went through all of this yesterday in some detail. We know this is not an uncommon thing for the United States pork producers to do. Is our own industry going to object to this? The Government of Canada will stand behind the Canadian industry.

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#### AGRICULTURE

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

The farm package announced this morning will give farmers about \$7 an acre, and the government has said that that is what farmers need. Well, yesterday I too met 7,000 farmers who said very clearly that they needed \$30 an acre to continue or they are out of business.

So I want to ask the Prime Minister: according to his government's calculations, how many farm families will this shortfall put out of business permanently?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think the crisis in the farm community is much more serious than the Leader of the New Democratic Party has put forward in her question.

Thirty dollars an acre amounts over \$2 billion. That is on seeded acres. If it were uncultivated acres it would be amount to \$3 billion. Neither the Government of Canada nor the provincial governments have the capacity to provide that support.

What we have done is work with the farmers and the provinces and put forward programs that will provide before seeding next year \$40 an acre in assistance to the grains and oilseeds industry in Canada.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the minister. As the minister well knows, farmers want to stay on the farm. When they say that they need \$30 an acre to make up for the 1990 shortfall, they are not just making this up out of the air. They are saying this is a question of survival. Last year, 44,000 farmers had left the land for good.