

There was a year's lead time given for its implementation. It came into effect on January 5, 1986, as the Hon. Member will know. As he also knows, the whole issue has been referred to the Forget Commission to make recommendations to the Government—

Mr. Orlikow: Why was that necessary?

Miss MacDonald: —to look at the question of premiums, who pays them and under what conditions, and we are waiting for those recommendations.

Mr. Fulton: The Forget Commission is not worth a damn.

REFERRAL TO FORGET COMMISSION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell the House why the matter was referred to the Forget Commission after the decision was made to make the change?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the change was announced on November 8, 1984, long before the Forget Commission was set up.

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AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Richard Lyng, stated yesterday, according to *The New York Times*, that he will be meeting shortly to discuss the current agricultural trade war with European Common Market officials. Will Canadian Ministers be involved in these talks, and will they be asking for changes in the U.S. Farm Bill and the European subsidy program which are so damaging to the Canadian agricultural sector?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to earlier exchanges in the Question Period, and really I do not see much difference in the information contained in the Hon. Member's question from information contained in previous questions either from his own Party or from the New Democratic Party. I think the Member has had the answers from the Minister of Finance. In addition to that, the Prime Minister is very knowledgeable of the situation that exists.

All appropriate means will be taken in the interest of Canadian agriculture. That has been the case with this Government and will continue to be in the future.

POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, this meeting is going to be held in Canada. Will

Canadian representatives be there, and if so will they be acting to protect our markets, such as the Portuguese market and the Spanish market, particularly in view of the fact they are joining the EEC and there are half a million tonnes of feed grain involved? Will you be there or won't you?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants to take the time to examine the record, he will see that Ministers of the Government are always in the appropriate and proper places in the interests of Canadian agriculture—

Mr. Boudria: Who is Charlie Mayer?

Mr. Wise: —not only here in Canada but, as has been demonstrated very clearly by the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and, indeed, the Minister for International Trade, in the international market-place.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR COVERAGE EXTENSION TO PART-TIME WORKERS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment. Recent studies confirm the growing trend of employers to replace full-time jobs with low-paying part-time jobs, and most of these part-time jobs are held by women. Will the Minister personally support extending unemployment insurance to all part-time workers since 44 per cent of these workers are now ineligible and many have families to support?

• (1450)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I know that members of the Press Gallery are aware of the number of new jobs which have been created in Canada since we took office.

Mr. Deans: What has that to do with it?

Miss MacDonald: I want to assure Members of the House and others that, of the jobs which have been created in Canada, 79 per cent are full-time jobs. That is what is critical, that 79 per cent of the new jobs in Canada are full-time.

The figures not only show that a tremendous number of full-time jobs are being created, but also that the trend is improving. In 1980, 29 per cent of the jobs were part-time.

Some Hon. Members: Order, order!

Miss MacDonald: In 1981, 32 per cent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!