

S.O. 21

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

## AGRICULTURE

## MARITIME FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in January of this year the Maritime Farmers Council made a submission to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) outlining the crisis situation that exists on the East Coast in the livestock industry.

In 1941, when the Feed Grain Assistance Program was introduced, 90 per cent of the cost of transporting grain to eastern Canada was paid by the federal Government. By 1976 the level of assistance had fallen to 59.3 per cent. By 1985 Feed Freight Assistance covers only 19 to 28 per cent of the transportation cost of Ontario corn, 26 to 33 per cent of the transportation cost of western grains, and none of the cost for protein concentrates.

Little or no research is being done on making use of the agricultural potential of the maritime provinces to allow them to achieve self-sufficiency in livestock feed production. The industry is in a crisis situation with feed costs \$60 a tonne higher in the feather industry, \$47 a tonne in the dairy industry, and \$37 a tonne in the pork industry.

The Maritime Farmers Council has received the support of all three maritime provinces for its proposal that transportation costs assistance be brought up to the 1976 level of 59.3 per cent, and be indexed until self-sufficiency in feed production is achieved. In the meantime, the industry is in an emergency situation and needs the immediate support of the federal Government until changes to legislation can be introduced to increase the level of assistance. I would request that the Minister take immediate action in this regard before more Canadian farmers are forced out of their livelihood.

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## CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

## BRAVERY AWARDS FOR IROQUOIS DESTROYER CREW MEMBERS

**Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, unlike the previous Government whose leader, according to Ottawa's paper *The Citizen*, gave the Armed Forces a priority level below the support price of hogs, this Government gives top priority to our Armed Forces, and has demonstrated its care through action and promises.

Our Armed Forces personnel are highly trained professionals, working with inferior or outdated equipment, but when their professionalism is combined with raw courage, exceptional achievements are possible.

On December 5, 1983, the crew of the freighter, *Ho Ming*, caught in heavy seas off the coast of Newfoundland, was forced to abandon ship. The Canadian destroyer, *Iroquois*, responded to the distress call of the freighter and launched a helicopter and two zodiac rubber rafts for the rescue.

The rescue was extremely dangerous, as the sea was swelling 12 metres. Sub-Lieutenant David Finch sustained a chest injury when he was pinned underneath a steel ladder during the rescue, and Ordinary Seaman Michael Bouchard was thrown into the freezing waters. Two crew members of the *Ho Ming* were also thrown into the water, and Able Seaman Dennis Morrison and Sub-Lieutenant Finch re-entered the water to save their lives.

Six crew members of the *Iroquois* are being awarded the Star of Courage, Canada's second highest bravery award, for their actions in this rescue. Six more will receive the Medal of Bravery, the third highest award.

It is not often that Members of Parliament from Ontario have the opportunity to speak on naval issues, but I am pleased that one of the men receiving the Star of Courage, Lieutenant Finch, is my constituent—

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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## DISASTERS

## ASSISTANCE URGED FOR GLACE BAY, N.S.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, once again I feel it incumbent upon me to raise the issue of the disastrous economic situation in Glace Bay and the surrounding areas.

As all Members are aware, the town has suffered two serious set-backs in the past several months, with the fire at the Highland Fisheries Fish Plant and the fire at the Number 26 Colliery, leaving 1,500 people out of work. While we were encouraged with the Minister of Employment and Immigration's (Miss MacDonald) recent announcement of \$2.7 million to meet the immediate crisis, it falls very short of what is needed. What is needed for the town of Glace Bay and surrounding areas is a long-term response.

I urge that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and his Government strongly consider and take action on the following: first, the provision of a pre-retirement plan for miners who are 55 years of age and over, second, an early decision for coal development in Glace Bay, and third, a federal-provincial development agreement in order to provide some short-term assistance for much needed infrastructure as well as trying to diversify the economy of Cape Breton. Monies ought to be made available for forestry, tourism, small business, agriculture, research and development, and fisheries. Yes, much money is needed for human resource training and retraining.

These initiatives are realistic. These initiatives deserve the consideration of the Government and the co-operation of the Province of Nova Scotia, and I would ask that the Minister move forthwith.