

S.O. 22

Government alone cannot bring about economic recovery. Government alone cannot feed the starving. But working together Canadians and our Government can make this country and the world a better place in which to live.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Under the Liberal administration, Mr. Speaker, not only were investors not interested, but they even shut down several refineries in Montreal East. Today, we have three national companies which are seriously considering getting financially involved in Montreal East, namely Shell Canada, *Gaz métropolitain* and Ultramar.

Our open and welcoming approach has proved to be the driving force which has renewed the confidence of investors and prompted the management of those companies to invest in Montreal East.

For several days now the Liberals have been trying to use those investment projects in an insidious attempt to spread dissension among Quebecers.

Mr. Speaker, our Government has achieved a national consensus. In the same way, Mr. Speaker, we intend to protect, maintain and strengthen the solidarity of Quebecers no matter where they live.

Aware of its responsibilities towards every region of Canada and Quebec, aware of the wider credibility it is gaining every day from private investors, aware of the challenges it has created for investors from all quarters, our Government will soon announce a strategy designed to inspire even more confidence on the part of investors, consumers and workers in Montreal and Quebec.

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THE FAMILY

DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING ALIMONY PAYMENTS

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House to the case of Mrs. Gwen Wills of Ottawa who has been unable to collect alimony payments for three years.

Mrs. Wills obtained an Ontario Supreme Court ruling ordering her husband to provide for some of the needs of their two children.

But her former husband left Ontario and now resides in Nova Scotia where he has launched a series of appeals against the ruling in a successful attempt to put off those payments.

Indeed Mrs. Wills' former husband does not have to pay alimony for as long as the case is before the court.

This case proves the urgency of establishing a Canada-wide alimony payments collection system. Unfortunately Bill C-48 does not provide for such a system which would help thousands of women in dire straits such as Mrs. Wills, because of legal proceedings.

In the meantime we are forced to realize that the rights of women and children are severely breached. One child out of five lives in poverty, and most of the victims of poverty in Canada happen to be women.

Bill C-48 will do nothing to keep track of defaulting husbands and will not be of any use to 80 per cent of women waiting in vain for their alimony payments.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Wills is legally unable to defend herself, and I think that her predicament is absolutely absurd.

Therefore I urge the Government to amend Bill C-48 so that women in Canada will be able to receive their alimony payments.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

DELAY IN SIGNING TOBACCO CROP AGREEMENT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, the House has been following with interest the Government's attempt to set up a national tobacco marketing board. It was one of the first items of farm business to go through the House. Legislators here have been watching its progress with interest. One year after we passed the Bill there is still no board in place.

Farmers were agitating outside the House. The Minister took the two sides, locked them up under the old system, a provincial board, and announced to the delight of the House that there was an agreement. We now find that the agreement seems to have fallen apart when the two parties got together to sign it. The manufacturers have refused to sign and have decided to take some time off for the Christmas holidays.

● (1110)

The Government now has very few options. It can take the proposal from the National Products Marketing Council and sign it into law, which would permit the various provincial producer groups to take that agreement and begin negotiations from there. Instead, the Government seems to have chosen the route of going through the courts causing the resultant delay. Another point the Government should be very much aware of is that in the intervening time between now and when the agreement finally can be reached, there should be temporary border controls placed on importation of tobacco and tobacco products. It is unfair for the manufacturers—