

*Oral Questions*

Last Thursday, the Minister of Supply and Services in response to being asked why extra security personnel at the main plant had not been hired this year, as was the case for previous Budgets, said to the House "all precautions that have been taken in previous years were applied again this year".

Can the Minister of Supply and Services tell this House why he made that statement when, in fact, no extra security had been hired this year contrary to what was done in previous years? In addition, why was this less than accurate information provided to the House?

**Hon. Paul Dick (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Hon. Member does not know what he is talking about. The facts are that five years ago the Budget level of security then in place was applied on a 365 days a year basis. It has been fully in place for the last five years up to the exact period of two and a half weeks ago. When we published this year, there were ten extra security personnel.

[Translation]

## SAFETY NET—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Last week, he said categorically that the same amount of security was provided for the Budget this year as in other years. Today again, he gave us an answer. He still has not told us whether it was the same amount. Is he ready to admit that the extra security provided in other years was not provided this year? Yes or no? Can he tell us once and for all instead of skirting around the issue?

[English]

**Hon. Paul Dick (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member is talking about the number of people, I said there were ten more this year than there were last year. That is an increase. That is an improvement.

I would also like the Hon. Member to know that over a period of time, five years, three years, different techniques are used. Two years ago we had security specialists in. We have adopted some new methods. But we have had the same overall strategy and method used in the last three and four years. This year we had even more people.

## AGRICULTURE

## NATIONAL DROUGHT PROGRAM

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, last November 10 during the election the Minister for Grains and Oilseeds announced a \$850 million National Drought Program and wheat producers were told to expect between \$40 and \$45 per acre in aid. Four days later the Minister said that there was no cap on the money, that if the \$850 million was not enough there could be more.

Since then we found out that the provinces were never consulted and were not to be part of the funding. Yet we see in the Estimates \$425 million or half of the amount. What happened to the program? Where is the money? Will farmers still get \$40 or \$50 an acre?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)):** Mr. Speaker, what is happening? The program is well under way. As of the beginning of this week we have over 50,000 cheques in the mail which amount to approximately \$200 million to farmers.

If the Member is wondering about what is going on as far as the Estimates are concerned, he should know that some of the money went out in the previous fiscal year. The Hon. Member shakes his head. Perhaps it would be better if he shook his hand because it wouldn't rattle quite as much as when he shakes his head.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mayer:** The Hon. Member should know that part of the money went out in the previous fiscal year. Some of it is going out now. If supplementary estimates are required, that will happen. But essentially nothing has changed from the time that we announced the program last November 10 and nothing at all has changed since the Estimates last Friday.

## TIMING OF PAYMENTS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** We have checked with officials, Mr. Speaker. The \$425 million takes into account all of the moneys from the previous Budget and the previous allocations. There will only be \$425 million allocated for this program. The next set of supplementaries never come until September or October. The Minister has assured us time and time again that this payment would be out before the end of June. Where will the money come from?