

exist. If a point were to come when a national advisory council would no longer be necessary, surely that would be not only when we have voluntary press councils in all Provinces but when those councils are clearly free from potential influence from the publishers, both as the prime or major source of funding and appointments.

A free press has nothing to fear from independent press councils—

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

WITHHOLDING OF PROPORTION OF GRAIN EXPORT PRICES

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Madam Speaker, the nation as a whole, especially Canada's grain farmers, should not have to tolerate the Government's decision to hold back on average 25.2 per cent of grain producers' money from export sales. The Government, through the Canadian Wheat Board, is holding from producers 17.7 per cent of the export price wheat, 29.3 per cent of the export price of Durum wheat, 26.8 per cent for feed barley, 27.9 per cent for malting barley, and 24.4 per cent for feed oats. This amount, if multiplied by the number of tonnes exported this year, will result in a total pool account of approximately \$1.1 billion by the end of this crop year.

This is totally intolerable and inexcusable at any time, but especially now when farmers are in such financial difficulty. The vast majority of farmers burdened with loan payments will be forced throughout the year to borrow money at rates of 14 per cent to 16 per cent, costing them additional millions of dollars. All of this will occur even though the Wheat Board can borrow at one-quarter per cent below prime. Therefore there can be no logic for these present holdbacks and the low initial grain prices.

● (1410)

One can only explain this by suggesting the Government is playing politics with the grain producers' money. It intends to withhold producers' money until it feels an election is imminent. The Liberals then will attempt to trick Canadians into thinking they are being good to farmers by giving back to producers the money that is already rightfully theirs.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

S.O. 21

POLITICAL PARTIES

INVASION OF GRENADA—POSITION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): On Tuesday, Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) was pressing the Government to state a position on the U.S. led invasion of Grenada. It sounded clearly as though he was being supportive of the invasion. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said the Government would like more information before making a decision, the Leader of the Opposition suggested this information had already been provided by President Reagan in a television report on Tuesday morning.

That was Tuesday, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, a day later, the Opposition external affairs critic was singing a different tune. In comments to reporters the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens) said that the Conservatives were trying to be as neutral as possible on the invasion.

"We're trying to be more neutral . . ." he is quoted as saying by *Canadian Press*. "Let's get the evidence first," he stated.

What a difference a day makes, especially in the world of Tory policy making. We may well ask just who speaks for the Conservative Party on such serious and sensitive matters. Is it the Party Leader who wants us to support the invasion, or is it the official external affairs critic who says we should wait and see? Even worse, is the Leader of the Opposition shooting from the hip, or is he just ready to take a position for Canada on such important matters on the basis of what President Reagan says or does?

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AGRICULTURE

FORMATION OF FARM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, there have been numerous responses in the farm community to the current economic crisis in the agricultural industry. One of these has been from a women's activist group called Concerned Farm Women. Based in Bruce and Grey Counties, their expression of concern for the farming community exemplifies the traditional presence of agrarian reform groups throughout the histories of these two Ontario counties.

This farm women's lobby group was formed in response to the debilitating effects of high interest rates and other economic consequences of the recession. In an effort to preserve their communities, these farm women rallied together for their common cause. One of their many activities was to take on a project about farm women, to determine and document the extent of financial and psychological stress among farm families. The result of this project is the publication of a book entitled "The Farmer Takes a Wife".

This book documents the stress resulting from the recent crisis in the agricultural economy. Lack of profit from low commodity prices and high input costs, and other financial concerns were cited as the main factors contributing to stress