

## S. O. 31

These farmers in Northumberland need help now. Some 16,000 people in my riding work in the agricultural sector. The government so far has failed not only to recognize the importance of their contribution to the economic health and security of Northumberland but the importance of the Canadian agricultural sector to Canada in general.

Estimates which cut back on agricultural sector funding cannot be supported.

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[Translation]

## RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday my family and I were very sad to hear our leader's decision, but in politics there are often difficult choices and decisions to make.

Today, speaking on behalf of my constituents and on my own behalf, I wish to thank our Prime Minister for always being there when times were hard for the Abitibi region and for helping me deal with economic and social issues, always in the best interests of the people of our region.

I want to say how grateful I am for the exemplary courage and integrity he has shown since the electoral victory in September 1984. I want to express my admiration for both him and his family, and finally, I want to say that I appreciate the way he has defended the interests of Quebecers in Ottawa.

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[English]

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, last April and last December in this House I called for the establishment of an international criminal court which would initially serve as an *ad hoc* tribunal to try war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Just this week the Security Council of the United Nations decided as follows: "An international tribunal shall be established for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international hu-

manitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991".

This is a significant step forward for the world. I would like to congratulate the MPs from Parliamentarians for Global Action and MPs from all around the world who lobbied their governments for support. This is a unique effort.

In three weeks from now Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia with The International Centre for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Policy will bring experts together in Vancouver, B.C. to put some meat on the Security Council proposal.

The next step is a permanent international criminal court so that we have in place a body that will help deter future crimes against humanity.

Finally I would like to thank the minister of external affairs and her officials for their support in this matter.

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## VICTORIA CROSS

**Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I know that you and all members of this House and the many Canadians who supported my private member's bill calling for the restoration of the Victoria Cross will share my pleasure today.

This morning I had the honour to announce on behalf of the Prime Minister that Her Majesty has signed letters patent adding three military medals to the Canadian honours and awards system.

The decorations for which members of the Canadian forces will now be eligible were formally approved by Queen Elizabeth on February 2. They include in ascending order, the medal and star of military valour and the Victoria Cross will be the premier award for military bravery in the Canadian award system.

• (1405)

I appreciate the Prime Minister acknowledging my role by allowing me to make this announcement.

I want to thank members on all sides of this House for their support and their encouragement. It is gratifying as a private member to know that you can have an impact on such a significant decision.