

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I remind the Senate that it was the present Prime Minister who, recognizing that the origin of many of the problems lies in international conditions, and specifically in the insane subsidy war taking place between the United States and the European Economic Community, succeeded in placing agriculture on the agenda for the Economic Summit. He did so after close consultation with farm organizations in this country, and we will continue to use that forum to try to obtain the concerted international action that is required on these problems.

At the preliminary GATT discussions in Punta del Este, Canada was successful in having agricultural subsidies, for the first time since World War II, made subject to discussions in some multilateral forum leading, we hope, to the acceptance of some international disciplines in this regard.

From the action we have taken, I think it is obvious that we are prepared to support the viability of our farm sector. The honourable senator knows as well as I do—and perhaps better than I—that Canada, as well as a number of other countries of our size and importance in this business, cannot compete in the subsidy war between the United States and the European Economic Community. That is why we are attempting to address these matters in international forums in an effort to bring about some concerted international action on the problems.

Senator Fairbairn: I thank the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I accept the advances that our government and other western governments have made in bringing the question of agriculture and subsidies before international fora.

However, the farmers of Canada are not convinced that the government is now—not three years from now—prepared to do what it must to support that sector in terms of farmers who, at this moment, do not know whether they can seed a crop; farmers who, we are told, are selling their combines to buy seed and hoping that luck and the Lord will help them if their crop grows. We are talking about farmers who are described as being under chronic and dangerous stress. As my friend Senator Argue said yesterday, the suicide rate among farmers has tripled since 1981.

Yesterday I was asked a question by one of the delegates from the Agricultural Stability Action Committee, and I would like to pass that question on to the Leader of the Government and, through him, to the cabinet. That question is: If this government is not prepared to make commitments now that will ensure the survival of our farmers in the next year, what are the contingency plans to deal with the inevitable depression that will follow in the agricultural sector?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I can only take the statements of the honourable senator, which concluded with a hypothetical question, and convey them to my colleagues in the cabinet.

JUSTICE

CANADA COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON WAR CRIMINALS— IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, the federal government has spent \$4 million on the Canada Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals which, in turn, has spent two years investigating the problem and has come out with a 966-page report.

● (1430)

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether the federal government has the political will to implement the recommendations contained in the Deschênes commission report, and, if so, what funds for the fiscal year commencing April, 1987, it has allocated for the implementation of those recommendations?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, as to whether the federal government has the political will to implement the recommendations contained in the Deschênes commission report, I can tell the honourable senator that in a statement made by my colleague, the Minister of Justice, this morning, the government's intention to act on a number of important recommendations contained in that report was stated in quite a forthright manner, and the government's decision not to act on, or to reject several of the recommendations, was also stated.

Insofar as resources are concerned, the government has made it clear that it is prepared to do whatever is necessary through the Department of Justice and the RCMP to provide whatever resources, financial or human, are needed to bring about the apprehension and prosecution of any war criminals who may still be in Canada.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, is it the intention of the government to amend any existing laws or to create new laws to deal with the matter of war criminals?

Senator Murray: The answer to that question is in the affirmative. In particular, recommendations were made by the Honourable Mr. Justice Deschênes for various amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada, and various changes to the Citizenship Act or the Immigration Act and regulations. The government has undertaken to proceed with some of these changes.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NEGOTIATION OF COALMINERS' CONTRACT

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, two or three weeks ago the federal government made moneys available to the Sydney Steel Corporation for the modernization and rejuvenation of its plant. Mr. Callaghan, President of Sydney Steelworkers' Union 1064, met the Prime Minister, along with a great many other steelworkers, at the Sydney airport to