

*Supply*

• (1700)

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his address. Having listened to his as well as to a number of other statements in the House today with respect to the farm situation, the farm crisis, and addresses by my colleagues from Winnipeg—St. James and Essex—Kent I suspect that the Minister of Grains and Oilseeds will not want to go to the Brandon farm rally tomorrow. I wonder if he will want to go to the rally that is going to be held in Winnipeg in October. Some members will know of the rough ride he had in Melita, Manitoba, just roughly a week ago.

My question, however, is why the government is unwilling to support this particular motion. It is not a motion of confidence. It is one it could support if it chose to and still continue to sit as it does and be the government.

I want to make sure that I understand the points that he made. First of all, if I have understood him correctly and interpreted his comments accurately, the hon. member is saying it would be afraid of the support this motion would get from its own members, from the members of government. The minister would then realize that his own members support this kind of emergency assistance. Of course, once that vote had been taken the farmers would have clearly proven the point.

There is, in a significant sense, politics being played here. Is there not? I wonder if my hon. colleague would care to respond to the remarks I have made and to the questions I have raised.

**Mr. Stupich:** Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that I am hoping the reason the cabinet is reacting this way is that it believes there will be a resounding vote in favour of this resolution if all the members were able to vote.

That would eliminate the surprise and political advantage if it were announced here and now. If the government acted positively to that request, it would be acting in response to a united vote from the House, from all three parties, all saying it would be a good idea. However, it wants to be able to wait until the election campaign is well under way and at the most auspicious moment from the point of view of re-electing the Conservative government in Saskatchewan then announce the same kind of program it announced five years ago, a \$1 billion

or \$2 billion program to help the farmers. For partisan political reasons the government is instructing its own members to vote against this resolution today so the cabinet can make it public some three or four weeks from today.

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his remarks. I would like to focus on one comment he made with respect to the comments of the Minister of State for Agriculture regarding the movement of FCC workers to Regina. In fact, it was his response to a question I had placed before him about farm finance.

We have had a bill presented on GRIP and NISA which deals with farm income but there is still great concern about farm finance. When I asked the minister what this government would do about farm finance or when we could expect something on farm finance, he said there was something happening today with respect to FCC.

I would like to ask the member, who was a minister in British Columbia, how the move of the head office and some employees to Regina at the cost of a few million dollars is going to make farmers happy and make them feel more comfortable with their financial situation and the fact that there is not going to be another dime put in their pockets. How does he think the farmers will react to moving the head office of FCC to Regina?

**Mr. Stupich:** Mr. Speaker, I can only anticipate that the farmers will be very disappointed when they hear about the resolution that has been debated and is still being debated in this House today, when they see us vote on it and the government members defeat it.

I am very disappointed that the government feels proud about spending another  $x$  millions of dollars to move an office from one part of the country to another when it could have been spending that money in announcing a program to help the farmers who are desperate for that kind of assistance. I expect they will be disappointed. I hope they will react properly when they get the opportunity to vote.

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today and speak in favour of this motion which is asking for a third line of defence cash assistance on an emergency basis to