

The Address—Mr. White

have been more than enough. Today there is a legitimate concern that more needs to be done."

At the root of the problem, as farmers and the rest of the agricultural community understand, is the European Economic Community common agricultural policy and, by way of response, the U.S. Farm Bill. This subsidy battle between them has resulted in unrealistically low world grain prices. As is so apparent, when the price of grain declines, so does the economy of western Canada. These prices bear no relation whatsoever to any kind of production cost figures.

The opposition Parties do not seem to be able to grasp a basic understanding of the problem. The Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent), for example, talks about European and American farmers being protected by these subsidies. Anyone who knows anything about the agricultural economy knows that these subsidies are the cause of the problem and not a response to it. Without these huge subsidies, in a world of truly competitive agricultural trade, the farmers of Canada would prosper. They have proven in the past that they are among the most competitive in the world.

Let us put the subsidy picture into prospective for just a moment. According to Agriculture Canada calculations, in 1985, for every one dollar in Canadian funds which our Government spent to support wheat production, the U.S. spent \$2.57, and the EEC almost \$3. It is also estimated that for 1986-87, for every dollar Canada spends the EEC and the U.S. will spend nearly four times as much. Obviously Canada does not have the treasury to compete with the EEC and the U.S. The long-term solution is to end the unfair subsidization of the EEC and U.S. farmers.

The Canadian Government has taken a leading role in international talks on agriculture trade to help alleviate the problem. Prime Minister Mulroney, for example, made this matter Canada's top priority for discussion at the Tokyo Economic Summit. The debate took hold and every member nation recognized that the spiral of subsidy must be stopped, and only by acting together could it be stopped. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and finance Minister Michael Wilson raised the matter when they met their counterparts at the OECD spring session in Paris. The OECD subsequently launched a study on subsidies and their effects. Former trade Minister Jim Kelleher raised the issue when he met with his colleagues in Seoul, Korea, earlier this year. There was wide agreement that the proper forum to deal with the problem was multilateral trade negotiations under GATT. In Uruguay very recently our Government—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I believe the Hon. Member is reading *verbatim* from a document. He should, when he mentions a Member, leave off the name. If it is the Right Hon. Prime Minister, that is fine. He does not have to say "Brian Mulroney". The same thing applies to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or any other Minister. He does not have to mention the name. I think we should start this session off with that kind of decorum, and I would

appreciate it if the Hon. Member would remind himself of that when he is speaking. Thank you.

Mr. White: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not reading *verbatim* in all my comments. I have been using some of the notes. However, I will take into account what you said and I appreciate the intervention.

The Government has taken other steps on the international scene. The Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) was in Australia in August with other non-subsidizing exporting countries to seek solutions to the trade problems. We have also entered into important trade negotiations with our largest trading partner, the United States, in an attempt to secure a deal which will secure agricultural markets and, hopefully, open more up. The recent protectionist measures taken by the U.S. only serve to underline the urgent necessity to establish such a trade deal with the United States. Such a deal would ensure that Canada is no longer a victim of the American trade policies that are really aimed at other countries, particularly the European Economic Community. The second thing you can be sure of is that any deal which is signed by Canada with the United States concerning agricultural trade will be good for Canadians and, in the area of agriculture, good for Canadian farmers.

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That is what the Government is doing for the future of Canadian agriculture. Most recently there have been two major announcements in keeping with our Throne Speech commitment to help alleviate personal hardship in our farm community. First, two or three days ago Canada signed a multi-billion dollar wheat sale to the Soviet Union which is very good news for wheat producers in Canada. It is a major sale that is great news for all of western Canada, not only the farmers. Second, on Friday the Prime Minister announced the development of an agricultural assistance program which could total more than \$1 billion. Over the next month a package will be devised in consultation with the provinces. I believe it was urgent that the announcement was made during the debate on the Speech from the Throne in comments by the Prime Minister to give the producers in western Canada some indication of the assistance that will be coming their way.

As a final observation on the Speech from the Throne, I was also personally very pleased to see the Government's commitment to action against drug and alcohol abuse. The illegal drug trade is a \$10 billion industry in Canada. I personally believe that we must also support programs to prevent and treat alcoholism. Alcoholism is a problem which overshadows all other drug abuse combined. I am pleased that it was mentioned in the Throne Speech.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the Government has made significant progress in the past few years. The Throne Speech is a clear indication of a blueprint for further progress. I am proud to be a member of the government caucus and I am proud of the accomplishments the Government has made.