

*Oral Questions*

markets by artificial subsidies granted to American and European farmers.

I made that case, very, very strongly and strenuously in Tokyo and in Venice. One of the results finally is an acknowledgement that this situation cannot go on and we have to sit down at the GATT and together deal with it to bring it to an end. In the process of so doing, we hope that Canada will recapture its traditional market shares without these debilitating subsidies being carried on the backs of the Canadian taxpayers.

## AGRICULTURAL POLICY—INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROGRAMS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. After the Ottawa round of the Cairns Group, the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board announced that Canada would participate with the Cairns Group to stop subsidizing agriculture production and begin subsidizing incomes, something which the Prime Minister translated fairly closely into supporting farmers rather than farming, at the Venice Summit.

Since Canada's Minister of Agriculture has always advocated a market oriented approach to subsidization, with payments being based on production, what kinds of programs does the Government intend to put in place in order to meet this new policy commitment?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the programs that the Government will introduce on behalf of agriculture—we have introduced many as my hon. friend knows—will be adapted to the circumstances and designed to help Canadian farmers who work so hard, make so many sacrifices and who are now being unfairly penalized. We will be working with farmers. I will be out meeting with farmers and farm groups again and with provincial Governments, and the policies, we hope, will be adapted to the well-being of Canadian farmers.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre, a short supplementary.

## REVIEW OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, given the international commitment, can the Prime Minister tell this House what the Government has done with regard to studying the existing domestic programs in Canada which have been, as he knows, following the theory that the market and production are things that should determine the level of subsidization. Does he have a study under way which will determine which programs, if any, meet the Cairns criteria—which of our own programs?

**Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry and Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, you can rest assured—

**An Hon. Member:** Hold on.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I was so taken with the opening comments of the Minister that I too would like to hear the answer.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (1500)

**Mr. Merrithew:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Prime Minister.

The whole matter of subsidies to our own farm groups and farmers around the world is one of great concern to the Minister. We have undertaken a complete review of all the programs for subsidies. They are presently being reviewed again. Undoubtedly there has been no firm decision on any programs which would need to be cut in the near future.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise the House that this will be the last question. The Hon. Member for Windsor West.

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## CHILD CARE

## DEADLINE FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the status of women. Earlier in Question Period she said the Government would not meet the June 30 deadline for making a response to the report of the House of Commons committee on child care. The new rules of the House indicate that such a response must be made within 150 days, an extension of the 120 days in the previous rules.

Will the Government make a commitment right now to meet that deadline of 150 days as of July 30, and if not, why not?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member has been working too hard, or I have, or someone has. I understood that he mentioned in the question June 30. The response is due in July, as I understand it. If the Hon. Member would like, we could reconvene in July.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House indicate that when the committee requests that there be a comprehensive response by the Government, it is due within 150 days of tabling the report. The original rules indicated that it was due within 120 days and that is why we were speaking of a June 30 response. We have added another 30 days to the deadline according to the interim rules which we have just made permanent, so I would like the Minister to tell us whether or not the Government will meet the new deadline and if not, why not.