

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Well, Mr. Speaker, we all had a chance to say yes to Quebec with the Meech Lake Accord.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** And the hon. member for Hamilton East is to be commended for supporting the accord. Unfortunately, others refused to do so, and now we have a situation where we have to rebuild bridges between Quebec and Canada. That is why the government is committed, as the minister has just mentioned, to asking Parliament to pass legislation in May 1991 that will give Canadians a greater say in constitutional reform. We intend to respect that commitment.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am more inclined to trust the democratic process than the Prime Minister is because I am confident that, if we give Canadians outside Quebec a chance, they will vote massively in favour of Quebec in a referendum.

I have a second question for the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

[English]

Unlike the Prime Minister, I am not afraid of democracy, and I believe that the Canadian people should have a right to have their say. I want to give Canadians a chance to say yes to Quebec, and there are thousands and thousands of them who are prepared to do that. What are you afraid of, Prime Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Gatineau—La Lièvre. The hon. member was out of order.

**Ms. Copps:** What is so hard?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Gatineau—La Lièvre.

**An hon. member:** Don't get up, Mark. Don't get up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for The Battlefords—Meadow Lake.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

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**AGRICULTURE**

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, a very important coalition of farmers and farm

organizations are still in Ottawa outlining a major economic and social problem facing farmers and rural Canadians. They have indicated that they have fulfilled their financial commitments but the federal government, which promised an adequate third line of defence package, has not yet lived up to that end of the commitment. When the federal government forced the provinces to contribute more than they had available to GRIP and NISA programs, does the minister not agree that it is time for the government to meet its responsibilities and deliver an adequate acceptable third line of defence payout equal to \$1.3 billion called for by the farmer coalition?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)):** Mr. Speaker, if the member is talking about adequate responsibilities, this government has provided a record amount of assistance to farmers. I have said that no matter how much it is, it is never going to be enough. Surely there is a responsibility of the provinces in this.

• (1440)

Part of the \$640 million that went out last spring was for the so-called second line of defence that we could have held back and used on third line of defence.

Let me give the percentages. In the last fiscal year of the direct support paid by all governments to the producers in Saskatchewan, the federal government paid 83.2 per cent in Saskatchewan.

I hope that member makes the same case to his new premier to live up to his expectations.

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. It is an urgent matter that requires urgent and immediate attention by the federal government at this time. Producers expect their government to be with them in times of trouble.

Since the ministers have found \$800 million that they said they did not have before and that has been termed inadequate by the farm representatives here today, is it not time this emergency was addressed adequately in the terms the farmers coalition has brought to the minister's attention so that the farm community can farm with confidence and not with fear.