

Oral Questions

Trade indicated the government would raise this issue yesterday or today at the UNESCO conference in Paris.

My question to the minister is this: Can he please update us on any action that the government took yesterday or today, and are we any closer to securing international sanctions or peacekeeping or condemnation of the Yugoslav army?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, we did raise the matter at UNESCO. UNESCO did pass a resolution, I understand unanimously, calling for all parties to observe the Convention on the World's Heritage and also demanded that the military forces withdraw from Dubrovnik immediately.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, farmers in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan recently held large rallies to demonstrate their opposition to the government's agricultural programs and policies. Those farmers, including 7,500 in Regina last night, have said very loudly and clearly that there are deficiencies with the GRIP and NISA programs and that funds available under the so-called third line of defence must be increased.

In light of this protest, is the government prepared to acknowledge the farmers' growing plight? Will the government take steps to correct the obvious deficiencies in GRIP and NISA? Will the government increase the funds available under the third line of defence?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, GRIP is a tripartite arrangement that involves the provinces, the federal government and the producers. I want to remind the hon. member that payments are being made under both the NISA program and GRIP.

As a matter of fact and to put it on the record, Madam Speaker, some \$548 million was to be paid by September 15 in the form of the emergency assistance which was announced this spring. There is roughly \$1.5 billion to be paid between now and the end of the year under the interim payments under the GRIP program, plus the

\$800 million that will be paid out as soon as possible over this year and next year. That totals something in the order of \$3.4 billion. If you subtract the producers' premiums of \$536 million, there will be something in the order of \$2.8 billion flowing to the agricultural community between now and the end of June. While they do not have that money in hand at the present time, these funds are being processed and/or being mailed.

• (1150)

I am sure that will be very helpful in farmers meeting their debt obligations and planning for the future.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): A supplementary, Madam Speaker. Seven thousand, five hundred farmers in Regina last night were very much aware of the money that the government has provided and they have said it is not enough.

I hope the government is listening to those 7,500 plus hundreds of thousands of others out there.

The calls for a deficiency payment have been voiced since spring. The money has been needed for months, yet it appears that the government's intention for the third line of defence payout will not come until some time in 1992.

Given that the money is needed immediately, is the government prepared to advance those funds now to meet the needs expressed so strongly last night in Regina?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, in the spring we announced an emergency program of something in the order of \$600 million. This \$800 million deficiency payment is in addition to that and in addition to the payments that will be made out under the NISA and GRIP programs.

I remind the hon. member that between now and spring seeding, there will be something in the order of \$2.8 billion or \$2.9 billion net flowing to the farmers of Canada.

The hon. member suggests that is not enough. I think that \$2.8 billion is a heck of a lot of money. In addition, we note that yesterday's Statistic Canada forecast indicates that farm income will be up by 10 per cent. We are expecting that there will be a further advance of credit to the Soviet Union which will probably result in an additional \$400 million to \$500 million worth of grain