

the Federation of Agriculture from Ontario and the Atlantic Federation of Agriculture all oppose this group. The National Farmers' Union opposes this legislation. As a matter of fact, the group that passed the resolution yesterday and petitioned the Prime Minister said this in a letter to him.

At a national meeting held in Winnipeg this morning, 19 Canadian grain and oilseed producer organizations were unanimous in calling on your government to withdraw Bill C-36, and to re-institute the two previous acts, which provided for interest-free cash advances for crops grown in Canada.

It is interesting that they sum up that letter by saying:

It is urgent to reinstate the 1988/89 Cash Advance Programs, and to allow the farm community with the federal minister, through the policy review process, to design the appropriate marketing systems to ensure competitiveness and equity.

It is signed by the representative, Roy Cusitar, of the United Grain Growers in Winnipeg.

• (1620)

It is supported by all these groups: the Ontario Soybean growers, *la fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec*, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, the Western Barley Growers, the Alberta Pulse Growers Association, Focus on Inputs, Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Prairie Canola Growers Council, the Manitoba Canola Growers Association, the Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association, the Alberta Soft Wheat Grain Association, the United Grain Growers, the Flax Council of Canada, the Atlantic Grains Council, the Ontario Corn Producers Association, the Manitoba Pulse Growers and the Western Canadian Pulse Growers.

There is uniform support to oppose this legislation in every way possible and we just do not understand why the government is proceeding with it. It is just inconceivable to us that the government continues to push to have this legislation. It has been uniformly opposed. The Deputy Prime Minister talked about the enabling legislation that is needed.

All the Government of Canada has to do is obey the law. It is not obeying the law now. The law now says that they will make available to the Canadian Wheat Board and to other commodity groups funds with the interest looked after by the Government of Canada, and they are not doing that. What I am calling on the government to do is to withdraw the bill or just let it die on the Order Paper and to obey the law of Canada now which is to provide interest free cash advances.

Government Orders

The Deputy Prime Minister talked about farmers paying their fair share of the cuts that the government made in government programs. Farmers are making a tremendous contribution. The infamous budget which was brought down will increase taxes and cut services by \$5 billion this year and \$9 billion next year, and with the goods and services tax a \$5.5 billion increase will be imposed the year after. Those are government figures. It may be \$9 or \$10 billion, but it certainly is going to be the \$5.5 billion if the government implement that program.

In this program last spring the government has cut crop insurance by \$200 million, grain and flour transportation by \$60 million, rail branchline rehabilitation programs by \$48 million, and grain and crop advance payment programs by \$54 million. That is \$27 million a year.

Most of these cuts mean a reduction in services or a reduction in programs to farmers but there is hardly any program, in my opinion, which has the multiplier effect of a grain and crop advance program. I would like to talk about that a little bit later.

Just to respond to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture saying, "farmers have got to take the blunt axe themselves" let us go on to the other things which they have cut. They have cut the dairy export program by \$12 million, the commodity-based loan program by \$15 million and the Canadian Dairy Commission by \$10 million. So farmers, without being slaughtered on this one, have been slaughtered on a host of other programs amounting to \$400 million, and that does not even get into another \$100 million which they are going to have to pay in input costs for the oil and gas excise tax and sales tax. So farmers certainly are taking their chunk of the government's chop.

As we look across the spectrum of Canadian agriculture which is going to be adversely affected by this legislation, we see those organizations which I have mentioned this afternoon such as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the National Farmers Union, and the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory group. This is a farmer elected group across the prairies which advises the Canadian Wheat Board on this. The Canadian Wheat Board operates this program in western Canada. They have opposed it, as have the Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association, the Ontario Corn Producers Association, the Manitoba Canola Growers Association, and the Manitoba Corn Producers Association, and so on.