

Inquiries of the Ministry

the transitional payment for the current crop year is proposed to be made in recognition of that termination also for the current crop year. However, the statement also clearly indicates that contrary to the proposal originally made in October it is now proposed that any payments which may be necessary to make up a deficit in a pool for one of the grains will not be recovered out of future pools.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Without going into detail, the fact remains that you will take \$50 million or much more from the farmers in the manner as set out by the minister and at the same time say to them, "we will make you a gratuitous payment". Does this mean that the election is just around the corner?

PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION PLAN—PERCENTAGE OF SUPPORT—POSITION OF FARM ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, since the minister has reduced the support aspect of the program from 100 per cent of the total cash receipts as originally proposed to 90 per cent of the total cash receipts, or about halfway between his original proposal and the task force suggestion of 80 per cent, has he received the support of the farm organizations for this move and his 2 per cent deduction?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): We have had very full discussions with farm organizations, but the hon. member is misreading the plan. There will be 100 per cent stabilization on 90 per cent of the grain, excluding only a certain portion of grain in the hands of the largest farmers. Farm organizations have tended to support this approach to the use of federal money.

Mr. Gleave: I have to admit that our position is rather difficult since the minister did not choose to rise to his feet and explain this plan to the House. However, I would still like to elicit some information from him. Can he tell us when the \$100 million payment to which he has referred will be made? He has said something about its basis. Can he tell us when this payment will be made during the current crop year?

Mr. Lang: It is anticipated that it will be made as soon as administratively possible after passage of the legislation, which I hope will come fairly quickly.

PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION PLAN—EXPENDITURES COMPARED WITH SAVINGS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in light of the government's proposal to withdraw the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act and to cease picking up losses in pools, can the minister advise the House if he has added up the savings to the government and contrasted that figure with what the proposed expenditures will be? Can he tell the House whether there will be a net expenditure by the government on this program or a net saving?

[Mr. Lang.]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this year's expenditures without a doubt will be very remarkably increased over what it would have been without these proposals. In addition, if the total program as announced in October, with the variations indicated today, had been in effect for the period of years that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act has been in operation, the total assistance to farmers would have been greater than it was under existing programs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of hon. members rising to ask supplementaries. I will recognize the hon. member for Mackenzie, then the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, and after that the very patient hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Can the minister say whether or not the \$100 million he suggests here is related to anything in particular or is it just an arbitrary figure?

Mr. Lang: The amount originally was related to some estimates and calculations in regard to the payments which would have been made if the stabilization program had been in effect for this year. However, there might have emerged some difficulties in arriving at exact calculations for this year if that basis had been retained, so instead we propose to put an exact figure into the legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

Mr. Nystrom: My question is not supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES—INCREASED USE OF MILK PRODUCTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put to the Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs a question of which I have given him notice. Canadian assistance to underdeveloped countries, through the United Nations, reached \$35 million last year. This assistance was made up of a certain quantity of agricultural products. Would it be possible to know whether dairy products were included, since there is a very large quantity of such products in Canada and, if so, would it be possible for next year to increase this proportion of dairy products?

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. I am thus able to tell him that, from the very implementation of the United Nations' world food program, Canada has committed itself to contribute \$50 million. Dairy products, and particularly cheese and powdered skimmed milk, have cost \$13.5 million, which stands for a little more than 28 per cent of the entire