

with Canadian sovereignty, the decision that has now been taken by the United States is totally unacceptable to the people of Canada?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend is in substantial error in regard to the interpretation he places on the statement yesterday.

With regard to the second point which the Hon. Member makes, whether Canadian law applies, well, of course, it does. Concerning the third point as to whether we will be in touch, we already have. It is my hope to be meeting with President Reagan for a discussion of this and other important matters relating to our ongoing bilateral agenda.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** When?

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### AGRICULTURE

#### REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT FOR 1987-88 CROP YEAR

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The Prime Minister told the House this week that we should not be recommending that the Government provide a deficiency payment to help grain farmers survive the trade wars that are going on between the United States and the European Economic Community.

Today the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, on behalf of tens of thousands of grain and corn farmers across the country, are demanding a commitment by the Government that it provide a deficiency payment as they meet with members of caucuses on all sides of the House.

When will the Minister of Agriculture stop stonewalling the farmers and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and make a commitment to a deficiency payment for the 1987-88 crop year?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I must respond to that because the Hon. Member says that I recommended that the Government not be making a deficiency payment to western farmers. That statement is a complete fabrication and falsehood.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Mulroney:** That is at total variance with what I said in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Withdraw.

**Mr. Mulroney:** It is at total variance with what I said in the House of Commons. It is at total variance with the record of this Government which has given more aid to western farmers, which has been here to assist western farmers—

**An Hon. Member:** What about the problems?

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Mulroney:** Here is a Liberal yelling. When the Liberals refused and said to western farmers, "Why should we sell your wheat?", this Government said we should sell your wheat because we have an obligation to help farmers. That is why.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Algoma.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH FARM ORGANIZATIONS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, we will let *Hansard* speak for itself. I think we will find exactly what I said is exactly what the Prime Minister said earlier this week.

If the Prime Minister wants to come clean with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the pools, the corn growers and the farmers—and he will be meeting with them tomorrow morning—why does he not make a simple commitment that he will provide a deficiency payment for the 1987-88 crop year so that our Canadian farmers will know that they are going to survive, the same as farmers in the United States, not a gold-plated deficiency system, but just to survive?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I invite my hon. friend to take a look at *Hansard* very closely and to reflect upon what was said. I know he will want to withdraw the inadvertent distortions in what he said in the prefatory remarks to his questions.

Indeed, he is right. As opposed to any Liberal Prime Minister that he can care to name, I, tomorrow, will be meeting with farmers again. It is probably the sixth or seventh formal meeting with farmers that I have had in the last few years.

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

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** They will boo you too.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There is the Liberal point of view. The Liberals give the farmers the finger, and we give them the time of day and a hell of a lot of help. That is the difference.

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### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### WAGE SCALES FOR NEW EMPLOYEES—EFFECT ON WOMEN WORKERS

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last November the Prime Minister insisted that Crown corporations be required to have affirmative action plans and work toward meeting the equity legislation passed by the House of Commons.

Considering that 85 per cent of Canada's letter carriers are men and that the Crown corporation is insisting that all new employees have 25 per cent less in salary, does the Prime