that is finding long term, real solutions to these fundamental programs to assist women in this country.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Agriculture, whoever that might be.

Seeding is going to start any day now. Farmers were expecting a federal aid package which would put cash in their hand to help pay for the fuel, fertilizer and the seed. Instead, last Friday they received notice of another costly hike in Farm Credit Corporation interest rates and a farm aid package that is conditional on sharing with the provinces. That process of sharing with the provinces is going to take a lot of negotiation.

Does the government have a time frame within which it will complete the negotiations with the provinces, or does it intend to let the farmers hang out to dry while it and its counterparts in the provinces bicker and quarrel?

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there is no intention of delaying this any longer than possible. The quicker we can reach an agreement with the provinces, the quicker the dollars will be in the producers' hands. As I said earlier, negotiations and discussions are taking place with officials all this week and we are hopeful that there will be an early resolve and an agreement.

I want to remind the hon. member of what our minister said earlier, that agriculture is a shared responsibility. It is as difficult for us to raise funds as it is for the provinces. That is why we are asking the provinces to share in helping the farmers of this great country.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency and the time needs to be as short as possible, not as long as possible. What does the government intend to do if it does not reach a cost–sharing agreement with one of the provinces? Does the government simply leave those farmers out to dry?

Only an hour ago in Saskatchewan the Minister of Agriculture and all the farm leaders indicated that they sincerely believe that this is a federal responsibility and that they should not have to put up money.

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I said before, it is a shared responsibility. We intend to be successful in our negotiations. If you go into negotiations with the thought that you are going to fail, you will fail, but we are not going to fail.

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PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, last week in this House I asked the Minister of Transport two specific questions about Pearson International Airport, one about the security system in place and the other about the crowding in the skies.

We were told, at that time, and I quote: "The system at Pearson is working and it is working safety". Three days later, the Canadian Aviation Safety Board came out with a report which says, and I quote: "Urgent ministerial attention is required to correct 48 identified deficiencies at Pearson International Airport, to ensure the safe separation of aircraft". Which position is correct?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the Canadian Aviation Safety Board's report. We have been studying it carefully. Many of the deficiencies which they reported on have already been activated. We have hired and are training some 360 air traffic controllers. We have doubled the training capacity to 312 since 1988. We have been rehiring former controllers and retirees and taking other measures to make sure that the Canadian skies are safe.

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. We hear a lot about air traffic controllers. In 1985 there were 1,893 air traffic controllers employed in Canada. On January 1, 1990, there were only 1,500 .That is in a period of time when these people opposite had administration of this government.