

*Oral Questions*

and the announcement I made on Friday was perfectly consistent with our objective of helping Canadian farmers.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister's announcement was also remarkably coincidental with the Saskatchewan election and that call from Premier Devine.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister explain what the Deputy Prime Minister meant when, outside his office, he said with respect to the Prime Minister's farm announcement: "Anything to win elections, you know"?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, a cynical question deserves a cynical answer.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, we have that on tape and so does every reporter in the gallery. If the Deputy Prime Minister wants to set himself up as an authority on cynicism, he has the award going away on this particular issue.

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

## FEDERAL FUNDING INQUIRY

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances may I ask the Prime Minister a second supplementary question? When will he reveal the details of how much new federal money is involved, how much of the money is recycled from existing programs, and how much the hard pressed western provinces will have to contribute to any result?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the August meeting and subsequent meetings on the agricultural and finance levels in regard to the problem in western Canada in particular, I am happy to advise my right hon. friend that on Thursday or Friday of this week there will be a meeting of the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture to refine this matter further and produce the information required to help western farmers.

\* \* \*

## TRADE

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Last Friday the Minister said the Canadian lumber concessionary package was: "... our only offer to the Americans," and in the same breath she went on to say: "... as expected, that only offer has been rejected." That begs the question, Mr. Speaker, why did the Minister make this

damaging concession and undermine our case before the American tribunal one week before it makes a decision if, in her own words "as expected" they turned her down?

• (1420)

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question in this House. I can say that I did expect the Americans to reject an offer in the hope that they could jack up the price. It has been made very clear to the Americans that there is only one offer on the table and there will be no other.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister digs a deeper hole for herself. Her logic is shot through with confusion.

**Mr. McDermid:** Question.

## POSITION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The Government of British Columbia stated on Friday that it regarded the final offer as the beginning of continuing negotiations. Will there be other final offers? Will Canada get down on its knees one more time for the expected response, as expected?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member, I think, is inadvertently misleading the House because the Premier of British Columbia, who represents the Government of British Columbia, is totally supportive of the position taken by the Canadian Government.

\* \* \*

## AGRICULTURE

## ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and stems from his announcement on Friday that there would be some kind of overdue financial assistance for Canadian grain producers. Specifically, in terms of this announcement the Prime Minister used the figure of a billion dollars. Is the billion dollars to be new federal money? Is it to be in the form of a deficiency payment, and is this money for grain producers on the Prairies only?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the amount is pretty well that mentioned by the agricultural Ministers in their communiqué on August 27 to deal with the serious problem in western Canada.

The meeting to which I have just referred of Deputy Ministers of Agriculture on Thursday or Friday of this week is precisely to put together the data required to be able to respond with precision to my hon. friend.