

agriculture. We know that our grain farmers have been hit with a double whammy—low international commodity prices and the unfair subsidies of other grain producing countries. The Government of Canada has doubled cash advances under the Advance Payments for Crops Act. We have amended the Western Grain Stabilization Act to allow for payments prior to spring seeding when farmers need it the most. We promised to cut farm fuel taxes and we did.

• (1130)

The Government knows that Canadian farmers expect Brian Mulroney and the Government of Canada to sell their grain and, by God, we are going to do it. That is why we were pleased to sign yesterday a five-year grain deal with the Soviet Union to sell 25 million tonnes of wheat and feed grains over the next five years. That is the answer to the problems of western Canada.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** Canadian grain farmers are hurting through no fault of their own. We always said that Canada is a country that would respect and reward productivity. Our Canadian agricultural community, through the devotion and hard work of our farmers has grown to become one of the most productive elements of our society, and is now being penalized through no fault of its own. They are not being rewarded for their productivity, they are being penalized. They are being hurt but have done nothing wrong.

There is a trade war going on in agricultural subsidies which we are in the process of helping to resolve. While that is for the long term, farmers need help and action now. I am pleased to announce today that we will be working closely over the next month with Premier Devine and other provincial Governments to devise an effective financial assistance program to enhance the cash flow of Canadian grain farmers. Initial estimates of the assistance required are that it will amount to approximately \$1 billion.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** The work of defining the dimensions of the problem has already started and will continue in the coming days and weeks. We will be working closely with provincial Governments and farm organizations to devise an appropriate assistance package.

Our Treasury is not deep or rich enough to compete with the subsidies being thrown at farmers in western Europe and the United States. That is exactly what is taking place. This point was made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) in Tokyo, by the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) in Cairns, Australia, and it is the point that we made in Vancouver and Edmonton the other day when we met with farm organizations. They know full well that this war will deplete both Treasuries and, if allowed to go unchecked, could devastate the notion of more liberalized trade around the world. This invidious way of undermining

#### *The Address—Mr. Mulroney*

traditional markets and subsidizing farmers to produce something for which there is no market at a cost that no one can afford must stop. It is unacceptable. This is the problem that the Secretary of State is dealing with so effectively in the long term. We are operating on those two fronts and we will participate with others in bringing about an ultimate solution to this extremely complex and debilitating problem. In the short term, however, I am telling western farmers and farmers in general that they have made sacrifices, have done nothing wrong, and we will not allow them to pay the bill for a problem over which they have no control and which they did not create in the first place.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** We have also taken action in regard to western energy. In the last campaign we made some very specific commitments. I ask people to examine them objectively. We said that we would dismantle the National Energy Program, and we did. We said that we would remove the 25 per cent back-in, and we did. We said that we would abolish the PGRT, and we did. We said that we would defend western Canada's interest in energy, and we did. I am confident that because of this and the co-operation between the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, and the industry, it will come back and there will be a better and more promising day for energy in western Canada. Once again it will be the engine of growth that we know it can be.

We place great emphasis on family values and the institution of the family. The instruments that we have used range from legal reforms to tax measures designed to protect parents and children and provide income security. Our social policy agenda is to build on the system of social programs that have been developed in Canada.

[Translation]

Our Canadian family is the cornerstone of all decent social initiatives. The Canadian family will be defended in this Parliament by this Government, at all times and in all circumstances.

[English]

In a changing society, approaches to social issues must change along with it. With an increasing number of families in which both parents are working, it is only logical that we as parliamentarians must move on child care. With more threats to the fabric of our family life, it is the Government's duty to act in response. That is why we will be moving in this session against pornography, child abuse and drug abuse. I know that certain elegant eyebrows were raised when I referred to the drug problem as an epidemic. As the Edmonton police chief, Bob Lunney, stated, anyone who does not believe that there is a drug epidemic in his city "must be living on another planet".

I do not know what else to call it when we have a \$10-billion-a-year illegal drug industry, when the total value of illegal drugs seized by Canada Customs in 1985 increased by 142 per cent over the previous year, when seizures of illegal