

women in part-time positions. The National Action Committee on the Status of Women listed that as one of its five priorities.

The Government talks about social justice as a cornerstone for equality, yet it has refused to act in any way whatsoever to improve the law concerning part-time workers.

* * *

● (1415)

[Translation]

THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

RICK HANSEN'S COURAGE

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Province of New Brunswick and particularly the riding of Westmorland—Kent were honoured by a very famous Mr. Rick Hansen.

Indeed, I had the honour and pleasure of talking with Rick when I accompanied him on his journey from Port Elgin to Cap-Pelé.

Rick Hansen's courage is a source of inspiration for all those who meet him and wave to him along his way.

Needless to say Rick Hansen's cause deserves our support and I take this opportunity to convey his invitation to meet him and even accompany him when he goes through your community. He has invited you, be there.

* * *

RÉAL CAOUETTE

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT POLITICIAN

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): On September 26, in Rouyn—Noranda, Mr. Speaker, I dedicated on behalf of the Department of Public Works a federal building as a memorial to Mr. Réal Caouette.

Réal Caouette died on December 16, 1976, and I think the House should, on occasions, pay tribute to our great politicians who, like him, spent part of their lives in Canadian politics.

He was elected for the first time on September 16, 1946; he returned in force to the House on June 18, 1962, following his greatest victory, and he was to sit here until 1976. Réal Caouette was not only a great parliamentarian and the leader of a national Party, he was also and above all a man who dedicated his life to the welfare of his fellow citizens; he was a great Canadian, he loved his country passionately and he was very proud of his mother tongue.

Thanks to this ceremony which was held on September 26, Mr. Speaker, Réal Caouette will live forever in the memory of the people of my region whom he served and represented so very well here in this House.

Oral Questions

[English]

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FARMERS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, over the past two years the Government has amended the Western Grain Stabilization Act to permit timely interim payments, instituted an immediate lifetime capital gains tax exemption, doubled the advance payment for crops, enacted federal farm fuel rebates in excess of 30 cents per gallon, improved Canada-provincial crop insurance programs, put over \$200 million into crop and livestock drought assistance, and negotiated the inclusion of agriculture into the GATT talks. These initiatives, coupled with those of the Government of Saskatchewan, have injected over \$2 billion into the Saskatchewan economy alone.

Now there has been a commitment in the Throne Speech to work with Premier Devine and other provincial Governments and with farm organizations to devise an appropriate assistance package that will deliver an estimated \$1 billion to enhance the cash flow of the Canadian grain farmer. Never before in our history have any two levels of government, working together, made such a response to Canadian agriculture.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

AGRICULTURE

WESTERN GRAIN FARMERS—ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSISTANCE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister confirm that the announcement he made on behalf of western grain farmers during the course of his intervention in the Throne Speech debate last Friday was made only as a result of a 5.30 a.m. phone call from Premier Devine to two federal cabinet Ministers during which the Premier is quoted in the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* as having said: "If I lose over this, it's going to be damned tough for Mulroney next time around"? Is that the reason why the Prime Minister made a last minute, undetailed effort on behalf of western grain producers?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the initiative that was set forward followed a meeting of Agriculture Ministers in Victoria held on August 27, 1986, at which the Ministers supported the need to examine all options including deficiency payments which could be in excess of \$1 billion to maintain the competitive position of Canadian producers in the immediate future. There was at the conference a clear, collective commitment to take action to support the agricultural sector and all the jobs it represents across Canada during this damaging trade war. That meeting was held on August 27. There were meetings subsequent to that,