

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this was a Canadian pollster that we used, not like the American pollsters that are used by the New Democratic Party of Canada.

• (1500 )

The hon. member knows that it is useful and helpful in the course of policy development to have a sense of some of the attitudes and the directions of Canadian thinking so that we can better reflect in the decisions that we make the attitudes that Canadians have. That is one thing that members of Parliament do, they try to assess how people are thinking about particular issues. This is just further development along those same lines.

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#### EXTERNAL AID

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In 1984-85 thousands of Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel to escape the persecution and famine in that country but, unfortunately, thousands more were left behind. Of these, 1,500 were children, many of whose families had been transferred to Israel.

In light of Canada's good relations with Ethiopia over the years and in light of the fact that there is evidence that the famine is recurring, what is Canada prepared to do to bring about the release, emigration and reunification of these unfortunate people?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, my department and I have been involved in this issue for some years and will continue to do what we can to bring about the reunification of families of Ethiopian Jews.

Of course, what is easiest for us to do is to encourage the reunification of families which have connections in Canada. We make regular representations to the Government of Ethiopia to facilitate that process and will continue to do that. If there are particular cases which the hon. member or anyone else has to bring to my attention, I would like to receive them and I will pursue them.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, a single question.

#### Oral Questions

#### AGRICULTURE

**Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. As he well knows, the western Canadian farmer is undergoing a real crisis. It is estimated that his income for the coming year is going to be 10 per cent of what it was last year. The Canadian farmer will be making the same as he did in 1941.

I have a specific question. The Americans are saying they will go after any market that they have to, and they will pay anything to protect their market. That is the same market we have. They were willing to pay \$20 a tonne in their latest grain sale with the Soviet Union. What is the minister doing to respond and to protect the Canadian farmer?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, 1988 was a record income year for farmers across Canada. In 1989 it dropped slightly but was still about 15 per cent above the five-year average.

The 1990 projections do not look as promising and, accordingly, the federal government and the provinces have established a committee to assess the problem; to assess the drought, the cash flow problems and the over-all finance problem. I expect to get a full report back by the end of February.

As the hon. member knows, the preliminary crop data will not be available until some time in the early part of February. It will be assessed to see whether in fact the programs that we now have in place will be able to be applied effectively or whether in fact there will need to be further assistance which we will develop together with the provinces.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Brant, a single question.

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#### CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs with respect to ending the cruise missile testing in Canada. In response to that question the minister said that it was Canadian policy to follow in step with NATO and to work in concert with NATO with respect to arms build-down and bringing to a conclusion the cold war.