

Oral Questions

government in supporting farmers. I can tell him that that record speaks for itself.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, the farmers already have certain information. The critical information they do not have relates to emergency assistance. They want to know what the government is going to provide. If the minister does not know, there have been numerous protests and rallies already to try to get through to this minister just how serious the situation is. In fact, there will be a major rally in Brandon, Manitoba tomorrow.

I ask the minister again to take this matter seriously and tell us now the kind of assistance he is going to provide to Canadian farmers.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): I should assist the hon. member. If he is attending the meeting in Brandon tomorrow, he will be one day early. It is on Friday. From past experience we certainly hope he attends.

I can inform the hon. member of the assistance which has been made available by the Government of Canada, in co-operation with our partners, the provinces and the producers. Some \$300 million plus in NISA will be provided between now and the end of the year. The first interim payment under GRIP, which is decided by the provincial governments and the provincial agency—

Mr. Harvard: I know that.

Mr. McKnight: He says he knows that. If he knows that, why would he continue to say we are doing nothing when over \$2 billion will be provided to producers under those programs that have been worked out by the producers, by the farm leaders, by the provincial governments and the Government of Canada?

* * *

EAST TIMOR

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

As the minister knows, the Government of Canada was quick to support sovereign self-determination for the Baltics, to condemn and go to war over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, yet our government has consistently

supported Indonesia in its illegal conquest and brutal oppression of East Timor.

I want to ask the minister, whether in spite of Canada's substantial bilateral aid and billion dollar private investment in Indonesia, will Canada now act to support United Nations initiatives to free East Timor from Indonesia?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Canada considers that Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor is a fact, recognizing that there has never been any history of independence or self-determination or self-government in that territory.

We do not condone the manner of incorporation and we deplore and condemn the loss of life that occurred, but we very much support the unsponsored dialogue between Portugal and Indonesia as the most promising means to reach an understanding in that very unfortunate and unhappy circumstance.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It is reported that the Prime Minister is being pressured by External Affairs and the business community to visit South Africa this fall, despite the fact that the majority in South Africa are still denied their democratic rights on the basis of their colour.

Has the Prime Minister received a message from Nelson Mandela asking him not to visit? Has the Prime Minister decided to comply with that request and to withhold a prime ministerial visit to South Africa until the blight of apartheid is truly lifted in that country.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is in error. I have been pressured by absolutely no one, least of all any members of various communities in regard to any possible trips to South Africa or elsewhere.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs returned from New Delhi where she chaired, as agreed, the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Conference in respect of sanctions for which Canada has had the chair for some years prior to the conference in Harare. The recommendation from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to me, upon her arrival, was that in the circumstances, even though President de Klerk had made some very courageous gestures towards a reconciliation in South Africa, that a visit by the Prime Minister