

Oral Questions

create a society where equality is the call word, where equality is the cornerstone of our citizenship.

There are at the moment very important considerations on certain elements that were in the budget. We are now very carefully reviewing those elements. We have been as forthcoming as we can and have indicated to all of our client groups, not just the aboriginal representative organizations program that we have been very supportive of, whatever continuing support that we have been able to make in the interim pending a further decision of the caucus and the cabinet.

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[Translation]

WILDLIFE RESERVES

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Forestry. We can read in *La Presse* of Thursday, April 4, 1991: "For lack of an agreement with Quebec on a conservation strategy, the Algonquins of Lac Barrière are threatening to set up barricades on Highway 117 and again block logging roads in La Vérendrye Park Wildlife Reserve to prevent any wood cutting." My question is this: Can the minister tell us today whether it is in his jurisdiction to implement a forestry regime in this wildlife reserve in Quebec?

• (1150)

[English]

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I can tell my hon. colleague that while we do have active programs in place to assist native people with the development of their resources on the reserves, if native people aspire to use resources that are on public lands under provincial jurisdiction it is the province of Quebec that would be the principal authority to deal with the native people on this particular issue.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

Farmers in western Canada have a deadline that is rapidly approaching. They must decide whether to sign

up for GRIP, for revenue insurance, for crop insurance, or in fact for nothing at all. An important part of that decision is whether or not deficiency payments will be tied to any or all of these programs.

Will the minister tell Canadian producers today whether or not they must sign up for any of these programs in order to be eligible for deficiency payments?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, as I am sure the hon. member knows—and I would appreciate if he would convey this to his producers—we did establish a set of principles that were agreed to by the provinces which would govern us in the development of a third line of defence package.

Largely, the principles reflect the multifaceted nature of the problem and the fact that it would be in everyone's best interest to get as many people as possible into the long-term safety net process. That is important from the standpoint of the producers, as well as the provinces, and particularly those who have yet to commit fully to the Net Income Stabilization Account, which is very key and vital to the long-term stability of the agricultural community.

One of the principles is that to the extent possible any transitional assistance should be tied to the long-term safety net program and delivered to that program if possible. It is within the spirit of those principles that we are attempting to develop that plan.

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, the government says that GRIP is voluntary. If it is voluntary then deficiency payments should not be tied to it. If the payments are tied to GRIP then the government should have the decency at least to let producers know that.

I ask the minister again, very simply, are deficiency payments tied to GRIP or are they not tied to GRIP? Farmers have a right to know so that they can make a proper decision based on market matters as opposed to what this government is doing with respect to programs.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's concern. We will hopefully be in a position to indicate