

without restructuring we have to support the farmers until that happens, whenever that happens.

I would like to know whether the hon. member shares that point of view?

Mr. Brightwell: Mr. Speaker, it a question that should not have to be asked, but I am delighted to answer it. Certainly, we have to support the farming communities. My riding is one of the great farm ridings in Ontario and, I am sure, in Canada. I am totally on their side. We have to help them through.

On the other hand, the restructuring that is going to take place is going to be farmer driven. They are the people who know the demands and will find the solutions. They helped in creating the GRIP and NISA programs which are coming in next year. Those programs are going to be a major part of keeping the farmers in place until something else happens in in the world and in Canada.

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, just a couple of comments to the hon. member for Perth—Wellington—Waterloo. I just want to first of all thank him for the efforts of him and the agriculture committee staff to get the meeting together in August. It was one that was badly needed. I hope before we are through this crisis it will prove to have been more effective than it has to date. That is certainly no fault of the committee itself. I think the committee did what needed to be done and we did it quite well. It is just getting the follow-up.

Furthermore, the minister of grains and oilseeds made it very clear this morning that he understands the problem and that is of some comfort to us. However, what the minister did not address was what he is going to do about it, other than talk to the people in the European Economic Community. He did refer briefly to the United States and I think he should have referred to the Americans more. They are no angels on this issue with their export enhancement program.

I will ask the member for Perth—Wellington—Waterloo what he feels is going to be done. He certainly disappointed me when CBO-FM Radio reported on September 14 of this year that: "Ontario Tory MP, Harry Brightwell says an interim farm aid package from Ottawa would not include special relief for Ontario farmers". It went on to say that the support would come from Ontario.

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As a member of this House and as a member from Ontario, in particular, I was hoping that he would go to bat a little bit more for Ontario farmers than is evident from this quote. I would just ask the member if he would care to comment on that.

Mr. Brightwell: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to recall the two particular instances where I was misquoted on the radio and in the press. In my experience, if we let everyone mention misquotes, we would have a few hundred. This is twice on the same issue in the same week, both from the same area. The situation with the newspaper arose when a reporter called up and asked if there was going to be a special package of assistance for the drought damage in southwestern Ontario. He said as well that there would be a package of assistance for western grain farmers. I said: "No way. It would be for all grain farmers if there was such a thing". By the way, the rumour of such an announcement was coming from a member of Parliament on the member's side of the House. He started the particular rumour.

I told him if it were true, it would be for everybody including Ontario farmers but would not be especially directed at the drought area. I do not know how they chose to quote me but that is the background of it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Van de Walle): It being one o'clock p.m., I now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

The House took recess at one o'clock.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

SYDNEY-TRURO LINE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, Canadian National has announced its intention to sell the rail line that presently runs from Sydney to Truro, Nova Scotia, to the private sector. The sale of this line will have a very damaging effect on the maritime region. CN says that the private sector will keep this line going.

However, we heard this a few years ago when Canadian National decided to sell its trucking firm, CN Route, which became known as Route Canada, to the private sector. The sale was approved by this government