

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have not made any specific recommendations in regard to the point raised by my hon. friend. However, he may recall that it has been an aim of this Government to obtain better financing for Third World countries. It is a cause which we promoted, with at least some modest success, at Bonn, and one which we will be promoting at the Commonwealth Conference as well. The Minister of Finance will also be discussing the matter in Seoul. We believe that it introduces a new element of fairness into financing for less favoured nations. I appreciate the view expressed by my hon. friend.

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[Translation]

### MINORITY RIGHTS

#### AID TO ASSIST COURT CHALLENGES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** My question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and concerns a program that is very important to official language minorities. I am referring to the program to assist court challenges, which, as the House will recall, was set up by the Liberal Government to help certain groups or individuals to defend before the courts their Constitutional rights under sections 133(93) and 23 of the Charter.

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State have all been asked about this matter during the session, and I personally have asked the following question six times: When is the program going to be extended? The program expired on March 31, 1985. There are groups that are interested in the program. Could the Prime Minister inform the House when some news on the subject will be forthcoming?

[English]

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, there will be an announcement this week on what steps we will be taking with reference to Charter challenges. I believe the Secretary of State has set that up for Wednesday.

#### GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister also tell the House if, on top of constitutional Articles Nos. 93, 133 and 23 of the Charter, Section 15 of the Charter will be covered by the new program?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question, of course, is yes.

### Oral Questions

### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

#### INQUIRY CONCERNING CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiag):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that the former Government of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker, in 1957 or thereabouts, brought a Bill before the House to divide the Northwest Territories, will the Minister inform the House whether or not he has any intention of bringing before Cabinet within the next two years a new Bill to divide the present Northwest Territories into two territories?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, as I think my hon. friend knows, the pace in change and timing of constitutional development in the Northwest Territories is very much in the hands of northerners. Indeed, the process by which we will achieve those goals is through the Constitutional Alliance. It is currently holding both public and community-based discussions. When it has concluded those discussions, I expect it will be able to offer a more specific answer to the Hon. Member's question.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Prairie farmers, particularly those in southern Saskatchewan, have had a disastrous summer. Drought and grasshoppers have ravaged a large area and, lately, heavy rainfall and cool weather have exacerbated the problem by delaying the harvest and by spoiling hay. The farmers are asking the federal Government for assistance in dealing with this catastrophe.

Will the Minister show the same compassion to these farmers as his Government has shown to the bankers in the billion dollar bail-out? Will the Minister make a commitment today so that these hard pressed farmers will receive the \$500 million or more in federal Government assistance which they need to bail themselves out of these problem?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member will know, we were on the scene very rapidly with reference to the crop problems in western Canada. We have made an announcement with respect to providing a commitment of \$48 million. That is phase one, which deals with the losses of livestock. Hopefully, within the next week or ten days we will be in a position to come forward with phase two of the program, which will deal with crop losses. I can assure the Hon. Member that the issue he raises will be given every consideration as well.