# Government Orders

# NAYS

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The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I declare the motion carried. The bill will go to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

### FARM INCOME PROTECTION ACT

# MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-98, an act authorizing agreements between the Government of Canada and the provinces to provide for protection for the income of producers of agricultural products and to enable the Government of Canada to take additional measures for

that purpose be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my hon. colleagues opposite who gave me this particular time space to make my speech, as I have a commitment at 4.30 p.m. that I cannot break. I want to thank my hon. colleagues. I appreciate that very much.

This bill is very important to all our friends in the agricultural community in Canada. It is very important to all Canadians. It is safe to say that we cannot have a strong Canada if we do not have a strong agricultural community. We are painfully aware of the plight of farmers. It is unacceptable to all of us in this House, and it is especially unacceptable to the farmers of Canada.

The farmers of Canada are a very proud people. They do not like the situation. They do not want to feel that they are somehow dependent on all of us. If there is any group in this country that wants to be self-sufficient, that wants to be totally independent and free to do its thing on its own without relying on anyone, it is the farmers of Canada. They are a very proud people and I can assure you that I am very proud of them.

• (1540)

As I said, this bill is very important and I can assure my colleagues opposite that there will be no obstruction and no unnecessary delay from this side of the House. We want to see this bill go as quickly as possible to committee.

However, we do have our parliamentary duty and our democratic obligation to debate the bill before it goes to committee. But it will go to committee as quickly as possible as far as we are concerned.

We are all aware that this Bill, C-98, is really enabling legislation. It is legislation which is going to provide, at least in the first instance, two farm safety net programs: the Gross Revenue Insurance Program, known by its acronym GRIP, and the other program, the Net Income Stabilization Account, known by its acronym NISA.

Right now, most farmers are riveted on GRIP. There are some very positive aspects to the GRIP program. Let me just point out some of them, and we agree with our hon. colleagues from the other side. GRIP, for example, will have pay-outs that are made on farm-fed grains. There will not be a requirement to sell grain within a