

Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I repeat once again, this GATT round has not been suspended. It continues. Work will continue, particularly on the agricultural negotiations. It is hoped that eventually there will be a successful conclusion achieved. I say that to the hon. member, recognizing and I am sure appreciating his frustration over the fact that there was not more progress.

I indicated as well in answer to an earlier question that we are moving ahead with the establishment of a safety net and stabilization program which will provide for a gross revenue insurance protection plan as well as a net income stabilization plan. We are very close to putting that agreement in place.

It will be in place for the 1991-92 crop year. I have also indicated, and I repeat here to the hon. member, that when that is done, we will trigger the third line of defence, which will analyze the depth of moneys that are required to look at the debt situation and whatever restructuring may be required to look at inputs and a whole host of things.

• (1440)

But there is a mechanism for that which involves the provincial governments, the federal government and the industry itself. We will use that mechanism to determine the level of assistance that may be required to supplement the GRIP and NISA proposal.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): The minister knows full well that Canadian grain farmers require assistance right now. The minister has indicated that he intends to bring in plans soon to begin the implementation of the farm safety needs program.

Will an immediate cash payment to grain farmers be part of that implementation program?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that this spring we provided \$500 million worth of emergency cash assistance which was supplemented by the provinces.

We provided a cash flow enrichment program which provided interest-free loans on farm stored grain, which

cost the federal government something in the order of \$95 to \$100 million.

We are putting in place the long-term GRIP and NISA program. We are triggering the third line of defence to see whatever assistance may be necessary to supplement that. I think that is a pretty full agenda. It demonstrates clearly that we are working with the provinces and with the producers to try to find the best programs that will not only meet the immediate need, but will, as well, provide a long-term solution, which I am sure the hon. member would welcome very much.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of multiculturalism and citizenship. Today is Human Rights Day. This government's record on human rights is abysmal. Just ask aboriginals, the disabled, visible minorities and others. Yet this government callously ignored the recommendations from both the Standing Committee on Human Rights and those of the human rights commissioner.

On this Human Rights Day, will this government agree to reconsider and adopt the recommendations contained in the standing committee report on human rights and the status of disabled persons?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to receive the standing committee report. We did respond positively to the recommendations that were brought forward.

We have already begun a complete review of legislation. At least 12 pieces of legislation will have to be examined carefully and important amendments brought forward. We have already started that process.

We announced at the same time a post-censal survey for disabled, a very important process to help in our understanding of the gravity of the situation.

We immediately put forward a senior committee of deputy ministers chaired by the Under-Secretary of State to bring forward a strong cross-government commitment. I have a feeling that the standing committee may be saying something today. I will await their report with interest. We will respond in the appropriate way.