

Government Orders

continue to come up with *ad hoc* programs such as they need in Souris—Assiniboia and in Brandon—Souris.

They need a special drought assistance program this year because the drought there is worse than it was in 1988, which was the worst year since the thirties. By passing this law now without reducing the price of the premiums, we are perpetuating the need for more *ad hoc* programs, such as we do need in Souris—Assiniboia and in Brandon—Souris this year.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I noticed that in his comments the hon. member for Egmont pointed out that this particular proposal was unacceptable to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and the province of British Columbia.

Could he inform the House whether the existing contracts in some or all of those provinces are such that coverage will be on the basis of existing law or whether the federal government will force these people into signing new contracts under the new legislation, Bill C-48?

Mr. McGuire: Mr. Speaker, it is my information that the implementation of these regulations by federal government will include every province of Canada, whether or not they agree with the specific regulations that we are passing here today.

The minister also said last week that he is now working with New Brunswick and he is going to continue to work with Prince Edward Island to work out specific details on a slightly different arrangement. How quickly this is going to happen I do not know, but as of April 1 the province of Prince Edward Island will be required to change over the administrative apparatus at its own cost and have it implemented in 1993.

Again, the costs are being put on the provinces to make the changes but specifically I hope that the changes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and the federal government will finally come up with will save the producers of Prince Edward Island some money and will make it more attractive for the farmers there to participate in the program.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. parliamentary secretary cannot direct a question to the hon. member for Algoma, but if he has another supplementa-

ry question that he would like to ask of the hon. member for Egmont, I will entertain it, but be very brief please.

Mr. Len Gustafson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to comment that for the most part the farmers in Saskatchewan, to whom I have been talking and who are now looking at this new program, are going to take the higher coverage. That is the information I am getting from the grassroots and that is where it counts, at the grassroots.

In the case of Saskatchewan it is important that they have the opportunity to increase the coverage four to five bushels an acre, which is the higher risk. Naturally there is a little more premium but most of the farmers are choosing to take that initial coverage.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is Bill C-48, an act to amend the Crop Insurance Act, presented to us at third and final reading. It is just one more example of how this government is abdicating its responsibilities to Canadians.

We have seen this government working hard to get out of the business of government. The examples are many, but the visible process began with the free trade agreement and it is continuing with these most recent bills before us. The unemployment insurance legislation amendments, Bill C-21, was just one in that long list.

I do not want to deviate from the bill before us, but I must say a few words about Bill C-21 in order to establish the basis for the argument that I want to present here today.

Bill C-21, the unemployment insurance legislation, has many faults. One of them is that it allows the federal government to remove itself from all funding responsibilities for that program. The total cost of Canada's unemployment insurance program, because of Bill C-21, will now be borne by the employees and the employers of Canada. There will be no federal financing involved in the benefits of the unemployment insurance program. The bill transfers the costs of those programs away from the federal government, and I object to that.

Most recently, Canadians will recall that the finance minister's budget, brought in on February 20, transferred a greater share of the costs of post-secondary education and health care to the provinces, again showing the