

Minister and the Minister of Agriculture, will know when this money is coming?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I must say I find the Hon. Member's representations somewhat inconsistent. As I recall, New Democratic candidates all over the country during the election campaign were calling for an announcement for drought. We gave them the announcement for drought, and now they are complaining about it.

As I said in a reply earlier to another member of the New Democratic Party, I regret they are disappointed that we made the announcement and that we are helping farmers. I really regret that very much.

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MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister as well. It relates to the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister is going to be meeting next month with representatives of the Canadian Federation of Municipalities to discuss the funding of municipal infrastructure.

I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he would advise the House whether this meeting is an indication that there has been a change in policy on the part of the Government, whether the Government is now prepared to fund municipal roads and sewers? Or is this meeting merely a public relations exercise?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, no, there has been no change in government policy on this matter. I and the Minister of Finance and other Ministers stated our position very clearly, that believed that this was a provincial and a municipal responsibility, and we could not provide the kind of funding of the magnitude that the Liberal Party could fund. That was made consistent right across the country.

I indicated to the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that I was prepared to meet with him, but at no time was there ever any commitment

or suggestion of a commitment for funding. That remains the position of the Government.

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HOUSING

ONTARIO—EXTENT OF FEDERAL COMMITMENT

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, I wish to return to the matter of federal support for housing in Ontario. My question is for the Minister responsible for housing.

On Tuesday the Minister said, and I quote from *Hansard*:

Let me say at the outset that my predecessor did not make a commitment to add an additional 7,000 subsidized housing units. That statement is factually incorrect.

I have in my hand a copy of the official news release of January 28, 1988, by the former Minister responsible, the Hon. Stewart McInnes, and the Housing Minister of Ontario, Chaviva Hosek, and I quote from it: "121 non-profit housing groups in 79 Ontario municipalities have received approval to develop 6,990 residential units in 1988 under the federal-provincial non-profit housing program".

Will the Minister responsible for housing admit that his statement on Tuesday was wrong? Will he make the commitment today to provide the funds for the number of housing units promised to the Ontario Government and the people of Ontario?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (International Trade) and Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, no, I will not change my statement from Tuesday. In 1986 this Government in co-operation with the provinces decided how they would handle the funding of the non-profit housing situation. At that time there were certain moneys allocated and dollars allocated to the social program aimed at those most in need. That was a decision of the Government at that time.

I notice that it is the provincial Government that makes the commitments. It makes the commitments based on the moneys available. The provincial Government made the commitments, used up all the money, and is now back asking for more money. It knew exactly what the amount of money was, as indicated by a letter from the Deputy Minister of Housing from the Ontario Government in January. If the Minister of Housing in