

in farming. GRIP and NISA will certainly assist, but there is still only a percentage of income for their previous years and it will put a bottom on the amount of money that the farmers will receive. It will guarantee an amount of money but I am not too sure that is a solution for the very long run.

We passed the motion in the Standing Committee on Agriculture which everyone has seen. In that standing committee I asked the officials from the Department of Agriculture how much money did come to the farmers in the 1990 crop year. That is the year we are most concerned about. The farmers believe that if they do not have assistance for that crop year they will not have any money to go into subsequent years that do not promise to be very good either.

The minister has already alluded to this this morning. Since I asked that question in the committee, since the committee as a whole asked the questions of the officials, they have been trying to generate some figures. I have not questioned or edited these figures, nor have I done anything with them. I understand there has been about \$1.3 billion paid out to Canadian farmers in the 1990 crop year.

The motion then does have a problem in that it asks that we as a government provide the farm community with an amount equal to what we would have given had NISA and GRIP been in full operation this year. It does not, however, take away from the problem. It does not take away from the fact that there is not the cash flow out there right now in the 1990 crop, and it does not take away from the fact that the farmers have not seen any of the benefits of the subsequent help coming to them, and it does not take away from the despair.

By the way, I am told on the same set of figures that had NISA and GRIP been in place in this particular year, the amount that would have been paid out would be \$1.1 billion or about \$170 million less than what has already been received for the 1990 crop year.

We have heard from the member for Essex—Windsor on the matter of equality. I want to report to the House and to the people watching that when I called the standing committee meeting on agriculture, I knew that there would be a motion coming out of that meeting similar to what resulted.

Supply

I knew that people on the government side of the committee had a motion ready and I suspect that the people on the NDP side did as well. Certainly, we did have the motion from the member for Algoma.

I knew that was going to happen and I wanted it to happen. I also called the meeting because there was a suggestion by the Ontario crop group that there was an inequality in the amount of support given across Canada.

I could not get anybody to talk about equality at that meeting. In fact, when I spoke to the chairman of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, he simply said that it was not a thing to do.

When he would not discuss it, I knew his main point about equality was the matter of the NISA plan and the fact that Ontario was not contributing to it.

I am in another difficult position asking for more assistance for Canadian farmers, particularly the grains and oilseeds people for the 1990 crop, because of our deficit. I preach on a regular basis that we simply cannot be spending more money, borrowing it to allow our children to repay it later. They are deficits which now are demanding so much of our money and causing us to have to raise taxes as high as we have. We still have not covered all of the cost.

I have often said that there are two situations where I can agree with deficit financing: first, for capital goods or for things that generate income in the future, and second, in an emergency.

I must say that I believe that we are now in an emergency in the farming community, both on a cash flow basis and on a psychology basis.

This motion then encourages the government to assist the farmers, and I am going to support this particular motion. I know that the matter of farming is not just a matter of business. It is not just a matter of what you do day to day to earn a living.

The member for Algoma has talked about the desire of farmers to farm. He was talking about a man and wife would go all day, all night or all week to a job some place just to maintain a farm.

The farmers want the farm. We absolutely need the farms and they are in an emergency situation now. I certainly want them to have that help.