

Supply

There was a year in there. The 1989-90 crop year was never addressed. The minister said that there would be money for that 1989 crop year. They would treat that as a third line defence, and they would make sure there were funds available for the farm community then.

Many people in my riding still have their commodities in storage. Many of them have sold them for far less dollars than the cost to produce them, and they are in dire trouble. I talked to a farmer the other day who said: "My crop is sitting in storage. I owe more in storage than I can sell that crop for." When we realize that those are normal situations for a lot of our growers, then we know the disaster that people are in. We realize this nation has to come forward and help those farmers.

That does not even deal with the horticultural problem. There are no GRIP payments for the horticultural problem. There are no support payments in that area to help other farmers who are finding it just as disastrous.

I believe that our federal government must very seriously consider the problems that our farming community is facing and act accordingly, or we will have a national disaster concerning food. When we stop and think about it, I do not see a younger farm community coming up. I am seeing older farmers having tremendous problems surviving on the farm and younger people not willing to take on those burdens.

• (1540)

I see my time is getting a little short. I also believe that it is not just a federal problem but that it relates to the Ontario problem as well. I must make a point of the fact that our Ontario government, at the same time, must make certain that they do their fair share of support.

When I looked at the program in NISA that is available, the federal government will put in .5 per cent more money if the province would support the NISA program as well, meaning a fair amount more dollars. Some \$24 million could be brought into the Ontario farm community if our provincial colleagues would come up with a fair bit more funding in the NISA program.

I also believe that the government has offered to bring up the \$50 million which it offered in farm support for our community. Those dollars are sadly lacking and should be brought forward at this present time.

There is also some question about the stabilization payments. The federal government has asked that the provinces top up stabilization by 5 per cent if the federal government tops it up from 90 per cent to 95 per cent, which would bring Ontario farmers into 100 per cent stabilization payment. I believe that should occur.

There are many things that both levels of government should be doing which I, unfortunately, feel they are not.

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by sincerely congratulating all the members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. I believe the motion that was passed unanimously in that standing committee of the House, the motion presented by my hon. colleague from Algoma and seconded by my colleague from Prince Edward—Hastings, was somewhat instrumental in leading to the motion we have before us today brought forward by the member from Mackenzie.

Like many other parts of Ontario, my riding of Stormont—Dundas contains a number of producers who face a rather bleak economic future if third line of defence emergency cash assistance is not made available to them by the government.

Producers throughout Ontario have been hit hard and many are facing severe cash flow difficulties. GRIP is too far off to help at this time. There must be some sort of transitional assistance.

There is also concern in the industry that the government may take money from GRIP to give producers money now when it will be needed for the next crop year. This would not be appropriate in my estimation. Emergency assistance must be based on the principles of GRIP, but not obtained from GRIP.

I would like to ask my colleague from Essex—Kent what he believes will be the long-term consequences for Canadian agriculture if—and I hope not—the government fails to implement emergency assistance at the earliest opportunity to cope with the crisis which is now facing Canadian producers?

Mr. Pickard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for the very astute question that he puts forward because, when we look at dollars and cents that are put into programs, if we are robbing next year's funding in order to keep somebody floating or keep somebody economically viable today, we are really not supporting that person. We are throwing a lifeline only it