[*English*]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. Is it the intention of the minister and the government to proceed with the bridge, as announced, without the approval of the appropriate authorities in the city of Ottawa?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The cabinet has approved the building of the bridge, Mr. Speaker, and as a member of the cabinet, I intend to carry out its decisions.

[*English*]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): A supplementary question. I understood the minister to say that because the federal government would pay for the construction of the bridge, it alone would make the determination. I ask the minister, who will pay for the approaches at both ends, of the bridge and whether the authorities that have to pay those costs should be consulted?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think I said a moment ago that there had been consultations with the authorities. Even though the consultation proceedings may not have been as extensive as they should have been, there were nevertheless consultations. The Ontario government was aware of the decision, as well as the municipality of Ottawa.

[*English*]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary. I ask the Prime Minister whether this is his concept of federalism?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Fraser Valley West has a supplementary to the previous question.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

IMPENDING DISASTER IN MANITOBA—REQUEST FOR RELIEF MEASURES

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): My question is for the Prime Minister. Southeastern Manitoba has been subjected to almost continuous rainfall for many weeks. Farmers have been unable to work their land in any way. They are unable to seed or get their machinery out to cut hay in many cases. The result is that not only the farmers but the townspeople feel there is an impending disaster. I ask the Prime Minister if he can assure this House that measures will be taken to relieve this situation in the immediate future?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we do have a policy whereby the federal government assists provinces which meet with disasters of this kind. I thank the hon. member for bringing this to the attention of the government. I must add that because of our belief in federalism, we only act in cases like this when a request is received from the premier of the province. As far as I know, no such request has been received.

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—
ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO ACHIEVE
GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of recent crop reports that, while wheat acreage has been reduced in western Canada, the acreage taken out of wheat has been transferred to rapeseed, flax, barley and other crops and the summer-fallow has increased by only 6 per cent, will the minister make a statement on motions before the summer recess indicating what additional measures will be taken—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member. I do not think that is a supplementary. At the same time, I recognize the importance of the matter. The question having been asked, for the purpose of saving time the minister might like to reply and indicate to the House whether a statement will be made.

Mr. Gleave: Unfortunately, it will be difficult for the minister to do that because I had not put my question. Can the minister inform the House what additional measures will be taken to achieve the government's earlier stated policy of providing $140 million in cash to the farmers under the Lift program?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, that was not the stated government policy. If the farmers participated to the full extent of 22 million acres, that would be the maximum amount. However, the program that we announced some weeks ago has been available to all farmers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the minister. I understood the question to be whether a statement would be made. Again I say that is not a supplementary question.