

*Supply*

understanding Mr. Romanow's government only saved approximately \$17 million. Opting out of the national program lost the province of Saskatchewan over \$400 million. Saskatchewan could not afford this.

• (1050)

There is another interesting point about the direction the NDP took in Saskatchewan. For years it has supported national, universal programs in health and agriculture in this country. It reneged and did not support the national program that was put in place by the various groups of producers.

I sat at the table when John Wise called together 50 to 60 groups of producers from all across Canada. They developed a program that was not perfect, but was workable for the whole nation. I will give the numbers. Since 1984 for every \$1 that has been paid into the federal government from Saskatchewan, \$1.59 has been paid back to the province of Saskatchewan.

How could the premier of Saskatchewan and the NDP government in Saskatchewan reject a national, universal program that worked for everyone and was developed by farmers? I think they have a lot of explaining to do. It is no wonder Mr. Romanow said they made a mistake.

The federal members here this morning are not willing to admit they have made a very serious mistake. Next year's problem is very important. Let us get back to the table in Saskatchewan and not make the mistake two years in a row.

No government can see a drought or frost coming. I was chairman of the task force on drought in western Canada in those drought years. I saw a government come through for the farmers. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister I have seen a Prime Minister who never turned down the farmers.

We have just seen what they have done in Saskatchewan. I do not want to be too hard on the Liberals here, but we can remember when the last Liberal Prime Minister told the farmers to sell their own wheat. We do not have to acknowledge from any government on the opposition benches that we as a government have worked for the farmers. This includes Grant Devine in

Saskatchewan who was a farmers' man, and the Prime Minister in the House of Commons.

These are the short-term problems. Let us look at the long-term problem. The world trade war is causing a mammoth problem for Canadian farmers and for farmers all over the world. I can assure you that Canadian farmers are as competitive as any other farmers. They can produce grain as cheaply as farmers anywhere. According to the figures of the United Nations, the trade war has cost us \$299 billion in subsidies alone in 1991 figures.

At the same time, to be realistic, if you go out on the prairies you will see piles of wheat on the farms.

We read our newspapers and see that people are starving around the world. The problem is that on the international level food is not a priority. We must come to grips with this. This makes absolutely no sense.

At the same time we are getting \$2 or \$3 a bushel for grain. How are we going to deal with it? The GATT has been dealing with it and I certainly support the GATT in every way in accomplishing its goals. It has been a long time coming.

I believe the G-7 countries must take hold of this problem and deal with it as the number one international problem we face today. The major international problems have been arms control and cold war. The major international problems of today seem to be starvation, the trade war and agriculture, which is going through very difficult problems. How are we dealing with this?

I want to assure you the Prime Minister of Canada carried agriculture to the G-7 Tokyo conference and has continually been doing this on behalf of the Canadian farmers and the Canadian people. Now that he is the senior member in the G-7, only the Prime Minister will be able to represent the farmers of Canada at the G-7 with regard to the great problems that face us internationally in the world-war subsidies on food.

It is most important that the G-7 take hold of this problem, deal with it through the GATT at the international level and make food a priority. As a farmer who has produced food all my life, the only thing I know is farming. One day the Prime Minister took my glasses, used them to read the menu—he did not have his glasses