

Government Orders

David Milgaard to have committed the murder. That is pretty significant evidence.

Just a few weeks ago we learned that at the behest of the Department of Justice, the RCMP are investigating and have interviewed a suspect in the case. Canadians wonder just what is going on with our justice system and our judicial system.

One of the reasons I am concerned is that despite an application by the counsel for Mr. Milgaard before the Department of Justice to reopen the case, an application that went to the Justice department 15 or 16 months ago, the file on this case has not yet reached the minister's desk.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe the hon. member's time has expired.

I would like to say to the hon. member that he has gone a little further astray as far as the borrowing bill is concerned. There is another place for him to bring that up. That is either at committee or other places he may find here, particularly when the Minister of Justice is in the House, and he could perhaps get some information.

I will give him another minute to wind up and then go to the next speaker.

Mr. Harvard: Mr. Speaker, I mention this only because I think it fits in with what I said at the beginning of my remarks and that is that there is a crisis in confidence in this country. It applies not just to the economy, but it has to do with the GST.

The government says the GST is good for Canada and good for the economy. It will be good for us. We will be happy to pay it. If it is so good for us and so good for the economy, why is the government spending—and this is what it has set aside—\$14 million to advertise the GST? Some advertising kitty.

Canadians deserve better, Canadians want something better, they want a government that is in charge, they want action from this government on so many fronts that scream out for attention, and they want some leadership.

• (1620)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member has gone over his time, but I will allow a short question or a comment from the hon. member for Dartmouth.

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the fine remarks from my colleague. Could he further elaborate on how this government's misguided economic policies, since we are now on the borrowing authority bill, have led to a further feeling of alienation in western Canada, particularly in the farming sector which feels that this government's economic policies have clearly abandoned the responsibility that a federal government should have for a primary resource industry such as agriculture, and to find out whether or not this government's economic policies have led to a widening gap between western Canada and the rest of the nation?

Mr. Harvard: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I congratulate my colleague on his perspicacity. His astute question fits a concern of mine that has been raised in this House for a number of weeks.

In western Canada agriculture is still king. As agriculture goes, so goes the west. We know that forests are important, oil is important, potash is important and tourism is important, but agriculture is still, in my opinion, king. Let me just mention a couple of things. Agriculture is going through a revolution, through uncertain and difficult times. Some people believe it is on the precipice and that things are beginning to fall apart.

If there was ever a time when agriculture in western Canada needed the most extreme attention from Ottawa, it is now, not yesterday or the day before, but now.

One of the things we get from this government in Ottawa, besides a lot of talk and so-called public relations, is a cut-back in all kinds of support programs. I have mentioned these support programs before and will not enumerate them now.

The cuts in support programs amount to something like \$400 million. Agriculture Canada has pointed out that the expected reduction in farm income this year will be as a result of cut-backs in farm support programs. In fact, if my memory serves me correctly, the cut-backs in support will account for 57 per cent of the reduction in farm income this year. That is one point I wanted to make.

The other point has to do with immediate farm aid. Farmers are sowing the grain in the ground. The government came up with this wonderful farm aid program. What the Minister of Agriculture has said is that the federal government is prepared to come up with \$500 million if the provinces, in return, will match those federal dollars, dollar for dollar. In other words, if the