


Tuesday, November 30, 1999

	<b>LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA</b>
<b>ORDER PAPER</b> No. 5 and NOTICE PAPER	
<b>FIRST SESSION, THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE</b>	

**PRAYERS**

**SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS**

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**GOVERNMENT MOTION:**

Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

WHEREAS Manitoba's Total Net Farm Income is projected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to drop by at least \$287 million below the previous 5 year average; and

WHEREAS low commodity prices, caused by export subsidies in the United States and the European Economic Community, have made it difficult for our producers to make a living on the farm; and

WHEREAS Canadian farmers only receive 9% subsidy on wheat, compared to 38% received by American farmers and 56% received by European farmers; and

WHEREAS the loss of national supports over the last few years has cost Manitoba farmers \$350 million every year; and

WHEREAS the cancellation of the Crow rate subsidy alone has caused the transportation costs of Manitoba farmers to triple; and

WHEREAS our producers are some of the most efficient and technically up-to-date in the world; and

WHEREAS the crisis faced by Manitoba's agricultural producers will continue to have an effect on the entire Manitoba economy, including communities, businesses and services which rely on a healthy farm economy; and

WHEREAS a Manitoba delegation consisting of representatives from producer organizations and elected members of all three provincial parties met with federal cabinet ministers and made a joint request for an immediate \$300 million in bridge funding; and

WHEREAS this request has not been satisfied.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly continue to work in a non-partisan way to make the federal government aware of our serious farm crisis and the urgent need for federal government action;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urges the federal government to take immediate action and grant our request for \$300 million for Manitoba's farm families.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. PENNER (Emerson) in amendment thereto as follows:

*THAT the first "WHEREAS" clause be deleted and the following substituted:*

WHEREAS farmers are the primary source of food production; and

*THAT the fourth "WHEREAS" clause be deleted and the following clauses substituted:*

WHEREAS the European Economic Community has decided to produce enough food to ensure starvation will never again occur in their countries; and

WHEREAS the European Economic Community ensures an adequate income for its farmers while at the same time maintaining low food prices at the grocery store counter through direct commodity supports and acreage payments to its producers; and

WHEREAS surplus European production is exported using price reduction incentive programs (export subsidies); and

WHEREAS the United States government, without individual state support, is using similar methods of support for its farm community to ensure the survival of its agricultural sector and low food prices for its citizens; and

WHEREAS this food price war has caused huge reductions in commodity prices, thereby reducing Manitoba farmers' incomes to a level that farms and food production cannot be maintained; and

*THAT the following "WHEREAS" clauses be added following the sixth "WHEREAS" clause:*

WHEREAS Canadian farmers must compete with the government treasuries of European nations and the treasury of the United States federal government; and

WHEREAS the federal Liberal Government in Ottawa has constantly insisted that the provincial governments must bear a large part of the cost of food price reduction programs; and

WHEREAS there is a huge difference in ability to pay for these measures among individual provinces; and

WHEREAS the federal Liberal Government in Ottawa has removed virtually all levels of support to its farmers; and

*THAT the eighth and ninth "WHEREAS" clauses and the two "BE IT RESOLVED" clauses be deleted and the following substituted:*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the federal Liberal Government in Ottawa to assume its responsibility to the food producers not only in Manitoba, but the rest of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal Liberal Government be urged to mirror the level of support to its farmers as provided by the European Economic Community and the United States government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through this action, the people of Canada are assured a continuation of a quality food supply.

(Mr. PITURA – 32 mins.)

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**Adjourned Debate:**

On the Proposed Motion of Ms. ALLAN –

For an Address to His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor in answer to His Speech at the Opening of Session.

(Mr. FILMON)