

*Feed Grain*

securities, securities on machinery, on livestock constantly increase, that banks are doing a roaring trade with farmers, and that today we still are in a situation where there is a huge difference between the prices paid to western producers for their production, for barley, oats and corn and other grains, and the price paid by eastern farmers for the same production, for the same grains, well, that scandal was exposed.

I have been hearing this same old story, this tune, those pious wishes, since 1962. No solution came out of them. No solution since how long? We suggested grain elevators in eastern Canada where grain could be taken at harvest time and be moved immediately so as to prevent any labour dispute.

The hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Bussi eres) admitted a while ago in this House, and he was right—

**An hon. Member:** He spoke well.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Yes, he spoke well and I congratulate him. And when the government—

I am not here to reproach him, when I hear an hon. member say something sensible, I am the first to recognize it. The government can solve the national harbours problem tonight if they want to. The minister could have solved the problem seven, ten days ago.

**An hon. Member:** The hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau) spoke well.

**Mr. Rondeau:** The hon. member for Lapointe, and I said so a while ago. He was not satisfied with flattering the minister, he asked him to bring in a serious solution. When animals begin to destroy one another, it is absurd, it is a perfect Babel, and the opposition members are not responsible for this state of affairs. Those responsible, those who maintained or supported and tolerated this situation are those now sitting on the front benches, those who have the power to solve problems but do nothing, lead nowhere, administer nothing, but let the bureaucrats decide everything. I am anxious to see the Minister of Agriculture assume his role as he wanted, as he wished and as he advocated when he was a member on the government side and his predecessor was sitting in the Chair of the Minister of Agriculture, the former member for Medicine Hat. I recall very clearly that when the present Minister of Agriculture was sitting not far from us, across the aisle, he seemed to know all the answers then. He would grumble and criticize—although not too loudly—the then minister of agriculture, and I would rely on the present Minister of Agriculture. However, I am somewhat disappointed by the time he needs to make up his mind, although I am willing to admit something: he may be competent and knowledgeable, but I feel he is prevented from acting by his officials who make decisions much too often in all departments. These are the real administrators of this country, while ministers only pretend to administer their respective departments. Ministers are not responsible for decision-making.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired. The hon. member for Richelieu.

**Mr. Florian C ot e (Richelieu):** Mr. Speaker, at this late hour, I shall try to be very brief and perhaps overlook all

[Mr. Rondeau.]

that has been said since the start of the sitting which, to my mind has lasted much too long.

Contrary to some of my colleagues, I am not so pleased with the debate held tonight. For some, it was a happy occasion because they were able to express themselves. If I were the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau), I would be happy because, as he said, he learned something from the Liberals tonight.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Boulanger:** No points of order are allowed after two o'clock.

**An hon. Member:** It is too late.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to the House that the only thing I learned tonight from the Liberal members, is that two of them I suspected of having Le Page glue on their seats, finally managed to prove that it was not so.

**Mr. C ot e:** Just as he does not know anything in agriculture, he does not know what a point of order is, because he would not have risen to say what he has just said.

As I said earlier, I have not learned anything from what has been said tonight, except that I fear there was more harm than good done to the farming community, to the consumer and to the negotiations where tension will increase because everyone looks up, because there might be "exploitation" at some time. I shall be very glad if it is not the case, but I am afraid that such will be the result of the debate. I find it unfortunate that the opposition members . . . to try to be as brief as possible, I should like them to understand. First, I do not blame the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), but I did not appreciate the way he accused the hon. members from Quebec. I do not like what the hon. member for Shefford has just done but I appreciate the spirit in which the mover put this motion forward, because I think he did it with good will. I want to prevent new accusations from one side and the other. When there is an election like the one which has just been held and when it is said that Quebec liberals do not know the problems of agriculture in Quebec, you, Social Credit and Progressive Conservatives, are told that the farmers decided to trust us. So, it is useless to hurl accusations to one another and to be hurt after such a long debate. Personally, I do not mind this very much, because I know who people trust and I think that the Minister of Agriculture knows it too. Because when leaders of APU, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Coop erative f ed er e come to Ottawa, we see them long before they go to the Social Crediters or the Progressive Conservatives, or even to the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) to whom I am very grateful. So let us forget all that and be practical. Very often we do not rise because we have very easy ways to promote our views. No mention was ever made of the discreet but very significant work done by the hon. member for Saint-Jean (Mr. Smith). He fights to