

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the minister took the words that I was saying literally. I know a farmer does not pick up the phone to determine that on the Tokyo exchange the grain markets have gone up, so he will just load it on his truck and run it down to the elevator, pump it in, take it out to Rupert and load it on the boat.

If the minister thinks that is how the grain system works he really should not be in cabinet.

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment.

The parliamentary secretary talked about the importance of the opportunity to deliver grain. He obviously does not understand that this provision of taking away the interest free portion will result in the program being destroyed. The Ontario Corn Producers estimate that although in the past they have had something like 1,200 people use this program, possibly as few as 50 farmers will use it. The question is whether a group like the Ontario Corn Producers will even bother operating the program.

Talking about the advantages, if you look at the material provided to all members of this House by the Ontario Corn Producers you will see that the cost benefit of this program, of being able to market later in the year without having to pay those interest charges through the fall and winter months for the 1987 crop year, resulted in a 15 to 1 advantage. In other words, the cost to the government was something of the order of \$1 million. The advantage in the increased price for those corn producers in Ontario was some \$16 million. That is 15 to 1. That is not a bad improvement in prices.

I think that the parliamentary secretary should obey the law. The law says that you are supposed to provide that money now. The existing law says that you are supposed to provide that money to the corn producers, to the Canadian Wheat Board and to other groups with the interest being borne by the federal government. You should obey the law and provide those funds to those groups now because it is crop time and those moneys should be provided. You are breaking the law by not providing that money and you should do it now.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. I think the member put it very well and I am sure that the parliamentary secretary will not even try to get up to respond to it because he knows that we are right on this side of the House. We know that what they are doing to the farm community in this country is wrong. They are doing something to impress their friends at the Fraser Institute and down in Washington. They don't really care about what the implications are for the farm community. I am sure that the parliamentary secretary and the minister will not even dare to get up to respond to the facts that the hon. member and I put on the record today.

**Mr. Harvard:** Mr. Speaker, I think the member who represents the Prince Rupert area has made some telling points. I just want to say a couple of things. The government members have been saying over and over again that we should get this bill through because the farmers need help.

The fact of the matter is that it is they who are at fault. We had a program in place. The farmers were using it. The government members are the ones who have destroyed it. Now they are begging for help. Well, let's get things a little straight. Another point I want to make concerns the government wanting to enlist the support of the farmers to fight the deficit. This is their way of saying to the farmers: "come on, fight the deficit". Does the hon. member think that this is the right way to fight the deficit? Is this the way to eliminate waste? Is this the way to save money or can he think of better ways than attacking the farmers in this way?

• (1750)

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that very good question because anyone who has taken the time to look will see that the cash flow of the farm community in this country and the net income they are actually left with, either as individuals or as groups in this country, is falling. It is a very tragic situation. We have a government that has not just failed, but has refused to collect \$34 billion owed by a small handful of profitable corporations and rich families in this country. That is not million, that is \$34 billion. That is this year's deficit. There are 85,000 profitable corporations that paid no taxes last year.