

returns to some extent. All this comes about because of an improvement in the international marketplace and a reduction in the cost of surplus disposal into that market. Although you cannot predict these things forever, as far as we can see, which is several months down the road, it looks like we will have even more improvements in this sector because we have recently been making some sales of skim milk powder in the international market with no subsidies at all. Indeed, it was sold at 24 cents a pound. We have sold some cheese. In fact, for several weeks we have been selling cheese in the international market, although not in great quantities. Some of these sales have been with no subsidy or, in other words, above our support price of 51 cents per pound.

In conclusion, total cash receipts for farmers in 1970 were down a little from the 1967 receipts, from \$4.192 million to \$4.166 million. This was almost entirely due to the difficult grain marketing situation. On the other hand, there were many areas where the total cash receipts were up. They were up in the Maritimes, Saskatchewan and British Columbia from levels a year earlier. There is a reason for that. The total cash receipts for Saskatchewan had been affected much more profoundly by the grain sales in the year before. Receipts from sales of livestock and products rose from \$2.5 billion in 1969 to \$2.624 billion in 1970. Receipts from sales of cattle and calves, hogs, dairy products and poultry were all higher in 1970 than in 1969. Then again, receipts from particular commodities such as rye, flaxseed, rapeseed, soya beans, potatoes, many vegetables and tobacco were all higher in 1970 than in 1969. The Wheat Board's net cash advance payments figures were, of course, down from \$157 million in 1969 to \$105 million in 1970. So it is not fair or just or accurate to say, as did the leader of the New Democratic Party, that income receipts were down in respect of all commodities in all areas. That is simply not so.

• (2:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I regret to interrupt the Minister of Agriculture but I must do so in order to advise him his time has expired.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) concerning the situation of Canada's farmers.

He said for instance that the government had decided to encourage an increase in farm acreages in order to ensure higher incomes for farmers. This is not a new policy. There were attempts in the past to group a number of units for a farmer who had to increase his income, but these experiments were not too successful in most instances.

Agriculture in both eastern and western Canada is in such a mess that farmers can hardly live on the income from their land. Is it not a fact that we are witnessing an exodus of our young farm people toward the cities, toward other centres where they expect to earn an income which will allow them to keep their farms since actually the farm can no longer afford a living to the farmer?

#### *Suggested Payment to Western Farmers*

Mr. Speaker, the NDP motion is specific enough and it reads as follows:

That this House condemns the agricultural policies of the government which have severely reduced the income of western farmers and threaten the future of Canada's entire rural community, and, in view—

—and this is very important—

—of the financial crisis of western farmers, calls on the government to consider the advisability of an immediate payout—

—whether there is production or not—

—to them of a minimum of \$100,000,000 without conditions and in addition to other farm assistance programs.

It means that over and above whatever is now granted to western farmers, \$100 million must be paid out to them immediately because they are going through a severe financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, since there will be a provincial election in Saskatchewan on June 23 next, I wonder whether copies of the speech made by the New Democratic Party leader, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), will be distributed in Saskatchewan in an effort to collect votes in favour of his party's candidates out there.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the leader of the New Democratic Party is forgetting that Saskatchewan has already amply enjoyed government by his party for the past 17 years, a government which has allowed citizens of that province to migrate to Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba—

**Mr. Lewis:** That is not true.

**Mr. Caouette:** The hon. member for York South is hiding behind the curtain and says: That is not true. But official statistics reveal that Saskatchewan is the only province in western Canada where the population decreased, under an NDP government. Why did that government after 17 years in power fail to get re-elected in Saskatchewan? Why? It was defeated by a former CCF, Mr. Ross Thatcher, who was here around 1945, 1947, 1948 and who has become the Liberal premier of Saskatchewan in 1964.

I do not blame the hon. member for York South, whom I highly consider, for being interested in politics since there will be an election in Saskatchewan on June 23. For the whole of Canada, the member for York South introduces a motion requesting that \$100 million be distributed immediately to the Western farmers who are going through a severe financial crisis. I went there and met some farmers: it is true that they are having a hard time.

But the western farmers, those of Saskatchewan, are not the only ones who are having a bad time of it. In fact, the first organization to have severe financial troubles is the federal government: it cannot meet any demand. The farmers out West are no worse off than those of eastern Canada.

Barely two weeks ago, I met some eastern farmers. I also met some of the employees of Massey Ferguson in Brant, where just the other day an NDP member was elected, not because the people are socialists out there,