

*Distribution of Goods and Services*

During the discussion of those agricultural problems, I introduced in the house a bill which would have had the effect of increasing the income of farmers, since it provided for the construction of grain elevators in order to reduce the price of feed grains.

This is what they said in November 1962:

It was to a Liberal, Mr. Whelan, of Essex South, that the task of killing the Dumont motion was entrusted.

A Conservative from Saskatchewan, Mr. Nasserden, tried unsuccessfully to perform that task, but he was out of breath two minutes before the private members' hour expired.

Mr. Whelan had therefore to take up where he left off in order to prevent the vote on the motion which, had it been passed, would have put western farmers on the same footing as eastern farmers.

Then, in 1962, the Conservatives were in office. We were asking an increased purchasing power for our farmers who, in Canada, are the very basis of society, and because in the East, we wanted to be put on the same footing. A Liberal member and a Conservative member joined forces to kill the motion I was presenting. Later, they tried to bury this bill which would have done justice to our people.

When election platforms were being prepared, we heard statements like the following, and I quote:

—the only condemnation of his project came from a Conservative member, Mr. Nasserden from Saskatchewan, a Conservative, I repeat, therefore, a member of the party that Créditistes support wholeheartedly—

So said the press at that time, in spite of the fact that we were telling them to take action—

According to Mr. Nasserden, the project is immature. Except the latter, all those who spoke during the private member's hour on this project found some justification for it, even Mr. Arnold Peters, of the New party.

While he declared himself opposed to the ultimate end sought by Mr. Dumont, he voted like him in favour of equality of prices for farm products across the country—

Then, we can say publicly that as long as a government does not have a majority, he is trying to win us over in order to be able to say: "We know the answer". And, it is exactly the portion of oats, to which I referred a moment ago, that is offered to the horse, that is the consumer they want to win over, to make him wait that much longer.

And as for the statements on farm policy made around election time, what do they say?

A Liberal spokesman said the members of parliament from the east are working on this problem.

[Mr. Dumont.]

Both parties gave the highest priority to this matter, believing that a general election can happen anytime and that they must make their policy known in the house as soon as possible—

The reason why it is hard for the old parties to establish a general policy in the field of agriculture, which would be interesting, lies in the absence of support in the house of a large number of members from agricultural districts, as is the case for western Canada—

So much for that group of people who are neglected, who are forgotten. I do not object to a discussion of the agricultural problems of western Canada, I even welcome it. I want those people to be happy, but when the subject is Eastern Canada, nothing is said about those problems.

And if, even occasionally, as has been said since September last, because apparently the West is experiencing what has been too often called "the fatal rising tide of wheat" because of over production, we should be punished, would it not be ridiculous, Mr. Speaker? Would it not be illogical as long as there are under-fed human beings? If, as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion suggested a while ago, we fail to find people able to change an economic system if it proves defective, it is high time that incompetent people should make room for others.

And in the explanation for the fatal rising tide of wheat, here is what one could read. The situation is the same in the United States and a newspaper headline described it as serious. Had they read the news, our grandparents would have normally concluded that North America was threatened with famine. How mistaken they would have been, for the meaning is exactly the reverse of what it might have been fifty years ago. For if in the United States as in Canada the wheat situation is serious, the reason is that there is too much wheat, as is the case with other farm commodities; what to do with it has become a problem. The dreadful fact is that the 1968 crop was a bumper crop.

The most striking feature in any village scenery is a string of huge metal elevators overflowing with wheat harvested these last years. Despite that enormous reserve, the government still guarantees it will buy at extravagant prices all that the farmers can produce, with the sole exception of the quota applying in some places.

There is even something funnier. To fight such a large productivity, especially in the United States, the government follows a diametrically opposite policy, under its land bank project, and guarantees a large income