

Withholding of Grain Payments

of Parliament. Today the government can bring in any spending program it wants. Parliament has lost control. It is only a matter of time until Parliament becomes another committee room where members will only be able to do what they are doing now, that is, get up and voice opinions. As a matter of fact, I do not know how long the press can continue its present practices in face of the organized professional efforts of Information Canada and its Canadomes. In fact, it won't be long before even the verbal efforts of Members of Parliament are totally nullified. If people with legal training read through much of the legislation that we have passed in recent years they will see the break-up of democracy, with more and more discretionary power given to ministers. Such a study will show what is happening in Canada. Today the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) is the financial czar of the country. At his discretion he can decide on expenditures of up to \$12 million and beyond, although he has not yet gone beyond that figure.

I just want to touch on one or two points before I conclude, Mr. Speaker. The remarks of my colleague from Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) earlier today centred on the decline in rural farms in western Canada. I cannot talk too much about those farms, although I had an opportunity to spend a couple of years of my early life living in western Canada, visiting parts of Alberta and of the minister's province. But I can tell the people of western Canada that they had better beware of the government which is running the country if they want to see any semblance or trace of rural life left in that part of our country.

We on the east coast have seen a deliberate, calculated plan to destroy the whole of rural Atlantic Canada. It is being put into effect under many pieces of legislation, and the most traumatic leadership is that provided by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. My colleagues from Prince Edward Island and the other Atlantic provinces can verify what I am saying. The people running the government have decided that everything in Canada has to be big, has to be based on the model of Montreal. It has to have an industrial complex and it must be viable, a word which has a particular meaning in government departments.

I hope nobody is fooled by all this. The government is attempting to destroy rural Canada at a time when most people are beginning to understand and appreciate the cultural and environmental qualities of life in these areas. This quality of life of these people needs to be preserved, yet the government is deliberately embarking on a policy to destroy the small communities. This is what is happening. If any farmer in western Canada does not realize that this is the end of the major aspects of government policy in this regard, he is in for a setback.

We have seen situations like this before. I am not making the charge without being able to substantiate it. A number of places in my province have been designated as special areas and will get what Mr. Tom Kent used to refer to as the "infrastructure". A number of other areas have been designated as receiving centres. This has not been announced publicly and no one in my province knows about this, but I have a copy of the publication

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

naming the communities as receiving communities. These communities basically fall into special areas. All of the 800 communities around the coast of Newfoundland are referred to as sending communities. This matter is really irrelevant. Your Honour is looking at me as if I am being irrelevant. I am trying to point out that basically the type of legislation being introduced, whether referring to farming or regional development, is aimed at destroying rural Canada. That is why I say to the people of western Canada that this is the intent of the government policy before us today. In my province we have a program that the government bragged about called the resettlement program under which people are uprooted from their communities, given a couple of thousand dollars, which seems a great deal of money to them, and sent into the urban areas. Often that is the end of their lives.

Last year in Alberta I visited areas where farmers had been very successful. They might have needed a little assistance from the government to organize themselves into viable units, but the experts from the government departments came and encouraged them to move off their farms. This is what I saw in the part of Alberta with which I am familiar.

About an hour ago, as I was coming in from the lobby, I noticed the television station was signing off for the evening. It was a little moving to hear "O Canada" being played. This would send a thrill up the spine of any Canadian who feels as I do. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am the youngest Canadian in the House at the moment, at ten after two o'clock in the morning. As a matter of fact, I am exactly 21 years old as a Canadian because Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949. At that time, I was ten years old and it took a little time to move from the traditional background of a Newfoundland fishing community with a pride which goes beyond description and a feeling of fierce independence borne from eking out a livelihood from the rugged coastline, fighting the elements day after day in a village on the east coast of Newfoundland. The day we became part of Canada, a lot of old Newfoundlanders raised the black flag because they did not think we should give up our heritage. A lot of them died without becoming Canadians, but others became very fine Canadians. I felt proud to stand in school assemblies and halls across the province, taking part in the verses of the national anthem.

In 1968 I decided to enter politics and become a member of the Canadian Parliament, the highest court in the land. This was because I was convinced that the system of government in Newfoundland had reached a state of autocracy which could not be tolerated. That is the system presently controlled by the provincial government which I would not like to comment on in detail in this chamber, though I have done so many times in the province of Newfoundland. At that time, going across Canada was this young, aspiring Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I believe he was 49 years old.

● (2:10 a.m.)

Except for a few people on the east coast, a few people in two or three cities in Quebec, Ontario and out west, most Canadians went for this young Canadian who could