

and grow and prices go up for the consumer. As a producer, I want my products marketed efficiently and cheaply so that I can obtain the biggest return for the agricultural commodity I produce.

What does the producer earn from a loaf of bread? He earns less than two cents; and bread sells for more than 30 cents a loaf. The middleman has a big spread. Governments have a spread in this respect. What does the producer earn from eggs? The government can operate under the name of a board. Some people have an aversion to using the title "government." It may be called a board or a government agency, but still governments take and governments grow.

At third reading of this bill I want to urge the House of Commons, the Department of Agriculture and the Canadian consumer to curtail in every way possible the growth of the interference of government in the agricultural industry, because governments are huge middlemen and they do not shrink, they grow.

Mr. Whelan: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: The Minister of Agriculture is babbling away like a fish in a brook. As a fish, he has about as much effect on the direction of a stream as he has in the Cabinet. In any case, governments grow and if they become middlemen they continue to increase the price of commodities to consumers.

In the cattle industry in British Columbia we have seen a great grab. The hon. member for Medicine Hat spoke about this. We have seen a great grab by the province of British Columbia in the cattle industry, not for the sake of that industry but for the sake of votes and the stabilization of government. It is not for the stabilization of the cattle industry. The Minister of Agriculture was boasting about how many people wanted government to interfere and how the industry wanted supply-management by his government in Bill C-50. He boasted about the way the cattleman voted at the Kamloops meeting. Could they have done anything else, when the average payment to the British Columbia cattle producers under that program meant something like \$7,000 apiece? That is bribery at its best. That is the action of a desperate government reaching for votes.

Mr. Benjamin: That is socialism.

Mr. Horner: Yes, that is socialism. It will last for a while but eventually it will go broke. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) brings in a budget and admits that we will be in debt this year to the extent of \$4.5 billion. That is socialism, too. The Premier of British Columbia took over with his government when there was a surplus. I do not think he will have a surplus if he continues this way and I do not think it is the best thing for the cattle industry as a whole.

It may be surprising, but before the agriculture committee had completed its hearings, the Minister of Agriculture expressed reservations about the top-loading effect of the British Columbia program. He used it as a point to sell the idea to the committee. Before the committee had finished examining him on this bill he expressed those reservations, yet he has not stood up and said that under no

Agricultural Stabilization Act

circumstances will the federal government subscribe to the British Columbia program because it is an abuse of the principles of Bill C-50. He has not said that yet; I hope he does in his speech on third reading.

Mr. Whelan: Give me time.

Mr. Horner: The minister asks that I give him time. The day is young and he has lots of time, and he takes lots of time. But I want him to answer this question. That is an example of the abuses which the minister of agriculture for Ontario feared with respect to the top-loading concept when he appeared before the committee.

The minister said under his breath, but I heard him, "Not at all", meaning that that is not an abuse.

Mr. Whelan: Madam Speaker, under the provisions of our bill that is not the case at all, because that program is under the jurisdiction of the province of British Columbia. It is the same as they have done in the province of Ontario. That is under the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario. I am not suggesting that the federal government should contribute to that plan.

Mr. Horner: I am glad that is cleared away. The minister said he does not anticipate contributing to that program. I hope he sticks with that statement, because elections are coming up in British Columbia and, of course, the present premier and government will stop buying votes after a while. They brought in a land program which angered cattle producers, then they brought in a subsidy and gave them \$7,000 apiece. Perhaps they thought that would pacify their anger and return the votes in those areas.

Mr. Whelan: Are you suggesting B.C. cattlemen are dishonest?

Mr. Horner: I am not suggesting they are dishonest at all. They are shrewd businessmen. By and large, many of them saw through the program and thought it was not good for the industry generally. On the other hand, they said the NDP government would not last very long and that they might as well take what they could get while the government was giving it, so they took their average payment of \$7,000 knowing that it would not aid the industry.

The British Columbia government has a program with regard to the hog industry. That program is an example of top-loading. It encourages production in British Columbia rather than in an area which can produce hogs with greater efficiency. If an agricultural commodity is not produced where it can be produced most efficiently, the cost to the consumer is increased. What is happening to feeder hogs in Alberta? They are going to be finished in British Columbia because the British Columbia government has a hog support program. All hogs over 100 pounds in Alberta move rapidly to British Columbia to be finished there because of the hog support program. That is an inefficiency. Alberta produces 50 per cent of the barley produced in Canada. That is where the grain is produced, and that is where the hogs should be finished. But because of inefficiency, the greed of politicians and their desire to gather votes, we see in the agricultural industry—

Mr. Whelan: Tell us where they are consumed.