

meals a day yet. I do not wish any hardship on Canada; however, I am very much afraid that some day it will dearly pay for the lack of action of its leaders.

If the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) as well as the other ministers concerned, namely the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Lang) had done their job instead of travelling as tourists around the world like playboys, today the situation would be quite different. They have taken trips instead of trying to dispose of our dairy products and our wheat. We have a playboy government and we are going to pay for it. The same article, says, and I quote:

Under the law, 5,200 hungry Metis are forbidden to use the wheat given to them by farmers.

This is the case in Meadow Lake which I visited last summer. There I met poor farmers who could have used the wheat which was rotting in the fields. When I saw the sheaves of wheat, I could not believe my eyes. I went quite near to make sure that it was really true. The Metis told me: We cannot even get some to feed our families. Is there anything more shameful than that, Mr. Speaker?

They are not even able to change our financial system so that the production may reach at least the inhabitants of this country. That is shocking to say the least. Instead of adjusting our financial system to production, they are still trying to reduce the latter to the proportion of our financial system. There lies the great evil, Mr. Speaker.

The ministers, who cringe before high finance, will not face facts. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson), who worked with us in the past, knows the nature of the problem. But he is swallowed up in that crowd and does not see anything except that this divine financial system must be protected. According to the government, there is no way of modernising our financial system.

I took the floor tonight so that everybody will know about the shameful solution put forward by the government. We are told the implementation of that program, which will be in force for a year, will cost about \$100 million to the taxpayers and will affect some 188,000 wheat producers who deliver their products to the Canadian Wheat Board, a government agency that acts as an outlet for wheat, oats and barley sown in the Prairie provinces as well as in some areas of British Columbia. So \$100 million will be spent out of the taxpayers' money.

Wheat Acreage Reduction

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that, the people of Quebec will also have to bear the cost of the proposed subsidy intended to discourage the western producers from producing. They are paid not to produce whereas in the East, the idea is to "strangle" the farmers to compel them to abandon their land. Here is now an excerpt from *The Star* and I quote:

The government will pay \$6 per acre up to a maximum of \$6,000 to the farmers—

—who will have the guts to leave their land idle. And those who sow anything but wheat will get \$10 per acre up to \$10,000.

The department does not even realize the absurdity of the situation. Actually, it has always been more or less unaware of where it was going.

They are doing the same thing in Quebec where they say to the farmers: "Forget all about dairying and start producing meat, and hay." It is the same story in the West, to the extent that within two or three years, our surpluses will be just as high as those we have today with wheat and dairy products.

There is nothing wrong, do we say, in trying to destroy the production granted by Providence to Canada. What we should do is not burn and destroy but go on producing and take whatever steps to bring this production to the hungry.

I believe that out of the 264 members of the House we could manage a sufficient quorum to organize a round table if the government would only agree sometimes to consult the opposition in order to set up a program of distribution, to feed at least the people in our own country and also the people abroad, thus enabling our farmers to market their production.

But far from it, the government, by means of what they dare call a program, will pay the farmers not to produce.

As I said, I believe this program to be the worst that a minister has ever dared to present to the House for a number of years. Whose fault is it? It is the fault of the ministers who have not done their job.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board did not perform their task. This is why we are not able to sell our present surpluses.

If we gave \$100 million to the farmers in order to help them, at least, to sell their wheat at 25 or 50 per cent of its price to the