

Prairie Grain Stabilization Act

Mr. Richardson: It is they who are prepared now to do something constructive and specific for the western farmer.

An hon. Member: That's a lot of bull.

Mr. Richardson: Two weeks ago, because of the importance of this legislation in so far as the western farmer is concerned, I moved a motion to extend the hours of debate. More than ten hon. members stood in their places and refused that request.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It is a bad bill and the minister knows it.

Mr. Richardson: Even worse than that, on the previous day members of the NDP moved a motion to adjourn the House.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): What's shocking about that?

Mr. Richardson: They moved the adjournment of the House, as we were about to debate this legislation which is of such vital importance to western Canada.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): What was so wrong with what they did?

Mr. Richardson: As a western Canadian, I am dismayed and disappointed—

An hon. Member: We all are.

An hon. Member: Listen and learn.

Mr. Richardson: —to see other western Canadians standing in their places and deliberately delaying legislation that is vital to western Canada.

Mr. Horner: The minister has no right to say that.

Mr. Richardson: The record of the opposition on this bill will live for years.

Mr. Dinsdale: It sure will.

Mr. Richardson: I can remember the day when a prairie farmer thought that one of his best friends was a member of the Conservative party.

Mr. Dinsdale: He still does, Jim.

Mr. Richardson: As a result of what we have seen recently, I suggest that that day has gone forever.

Mr. Horner: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister has reflected on the attitude of the members of the Conservative party. His assertion is not correct and the record will bear me out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Horner: Shortly after the House was reconvened on September 7, the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) asked that this legislation be brought forward. The spokesman on behalf of the government said that it would be brought forward in due course. Exactly nine days after that request, the legislation was brought forward for debate in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: What about the adjournment motions?

Mr. Horner: You can move adjournment motions at any time you like.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair asks hon. members to refrain from outbursts as much as possible. The Chair feels that the point raised by the hon. member for Crowfoot is not a point of privilege and hardly a point of order. Actually, he sought the floor for the purpose of clarifying a point. That has been done. The Chair will now recognize the minister who has the floor at this time.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. the record will clearly speak for itself, and it will speak for several years to come. I urge the House to move forward to a decision on the amendment to the motion, and also to a decision on the motion, so that we can bring the stabilization bill to a vote.

Mr. Alexander: What part did the minister play in breaking the law?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): He writes the cheques.

Mr. Dinsdale: He has not written any cheques lately.

Mr. Richardson: I urge this for a number of compelling reasons. Let me put these reasons in their simplest terms. Above all, let us get the facts straight in this debate. First, let us look at a few dollar facts. In western Canada, as my hon. friends all know, the crop year is a year which runs from August 1 to July 31 of the following year.

Mr. Horner: I am amazed that the minister knows that.

Mr. Richardson: We are not talking about the calendar year and we are not talking about the fiscal year.

Mr. Horner: Talk about the calendar year.

Mr. Richardson: Let us look at three crop years and make comparisons as between the provisions of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act and the provisions of the stabilization bill. Listen to this. The over-all fact is that western farmers would receive in the order of \$67 million more if the stabilization bill were passed than they would receive if the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act were to remain in force.

Mr. Paproski: How would they receive it?

Mr. Richardson: The hon. member knows how they would receive it: directly, in payments.

Mr. Paproski: But tell us how?

Mr. Korchinski: I think the Prime Minister mentioned \$58 million. Who is right?

Mr. Horner: Where did the minister get the \$67 million figure?

Mr. Richardson: Instead of receiving their money through the Wheat Board, as was done under the Tempo-