

Business of Supply

temporary storage facilities which have accumulated profits for their owners for years. Take the case of a 20,000 bushel capacity storage facility in a temporary building for which some \$2,500 a year is paid. At this rate, the building has been paid for time and time again.

The next thing the elevator companies will want will be handling charges. Bearing in mind that one half of the world's surplus of grain is in Canadian hands, it is time the government came out with a storage proposal for farmers. This would help to put money where it is most needed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Korchinski: It would also cause the elevator companies to realize that for the last 30 years they have not reorganized their system.

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member but I have to interrupt him again, this time to call his attention to the fact that the time allotted to him has expired; he can continue only by unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Korchinski: I shall not take up much more time of the House. I want to say simply this; it is time the government realized that it is not important we should have elevator systems in this country. It is important, though, we should have farmers who are making a living. By implementing a farm storage program, the government would be able to put the money where it is so badly needed.

If an adjustment is necessary, as predicted in the economic report, let us make it as easy as possible for people to get out of the business of farming, and avoid forcing them out needlessly.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Official Opposition should have chosen this day to bring to the attention of the House, of the government, and indeed of the people of Canada to the situation which exists on the prairies, placing emphasis on the storage and handling of grain and urging the government to consider ways and means of improving the present state of affairs.

As I come to the end of the time allotted to me today, I shall introduce an amendment on behalf of the New Democratic party which we hope will contribute toward a solution if the government in its wisdom chooses to take some advice. It badly needs some advice. I

suppose I would be safe in saying that it has succeeded in allowing the wheat economy of western Canada to drift into the worst position it has occupied since the 'thirties. I say this in the light of the experience of one who has farmed continuously in Saskatchewan since that time, and as one who has been active in farm organizations there.

The Department of Agriculture has lately put out an official news release advising the farmers that they should reduce acreage next year to 20 million acres—the extent of our marketing ability in the year to come as far as the department can see. If anyone cares to do the calculation he will find that a reduction to 20 million acres means a reduction of around 5 million acres in the coming year, equivalent to a reduction in productive capacity worth between \$90 million and \$100 million. This would be a reduction of about the same size as was effected last year. Hon. members can look at the net figures; anyone can carry them into the House and quote them; they are published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. But what we are talking about in real terms is the productive capacity of the farms in the west, and it is the productive capacity of these farms, together with the saleability of the product, which will make or break the prairie economy and, particularly, the Saskatchewan economy. This is what we are talking about today.

We do not have to look far for evidence of what is happening and what is likely to happen. The *Globe and Mail* is carrying a series of articles on the outlook for 1970. Their reporters have been going from one part of Canada to another. The particular article before me appears under a sub-heading: "Hard Times in Farming Likely to Continue". The writer says that the cash position of Canadian farmers is a major factor to be taken into account when assessing the outlook for the companies which sell machinery and other supplies. In other words, those people the Barber Commission were talking about, the machinery manufacturers who have been stealing the farmer blind in western Canada, are going to find that the object of their depredations, like the turkey after Thanksgiving Day, has been picked pretty clean.

• (3:50 p.m.)

The article, in part, reads:

The farm market at present is in a depressed state and projections by federal Department of Agriculture economists show gloomy prospects in the coming year and probably the next two years.