

steps to relieve the critical cash position of western farmers? What better to substantiate my argument than to draw attention to the fact that of \$151 million advanced to the farmers by the end of the 1968-69 crop year, \$90 million is still outstanding and not repaid?

• (8:10 p.m.)

Mr. Olson: I did not say that.

Mr. Horner: If the minister has a comment to make perhaps he will rise in his place and make it. He suggests that I am misinterpreting his remarks. *Hansard* will prove whether or not this is so.

Mr. Olson: I will be pleased to correct the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Horner: The minister said in his speech that there is reasonable ground for believing that \$90 million is outstanding.

Mr. Olson: Outstanding now; I did not say at the end of July. What the hon. gentleman asked me was how much is outstanding now, and I replied I could not say with precision but that I would guess about \$90 million at this date.

Mr. Horner: Yes, at this date is exactly what I said.

Mr. Pepin: No; you said as at the end of the crop year.

Mr. Horner: I said at the end of the crop year there would be \$90 million outstanding. If there is \$90 million outstanding today there will be \$90 million, or approximately \$90 million, outstanding at the end of July, 1969. I would ask the new Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), who is also new to this debate, to stand up and say whether \$90 million is outstanding today, and how much less will be outstanding at the end of July, 1969.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture could give an estimate of how much will be outstanding.

Mr. Horner: I want to hear how much is going to be paid off. I ask that question of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) and I will sit down because I want to hear his answer.

Mr. Olson: One-half of the gross value of the grain delivered between now and then.

Mr. Horner: I have heard a lot of waffling, but that takes the cake. The minister says

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one-half of what might be delivered. Who better knows what might be delivered than the two ministers who are supposed to be interested in western agriculture? There is a critical cash shortage in western Canada, as the motion states. The government has admitted \$90 million is outstanding to date. I say there will be very nearly \$90 million outstanding on July 31, 1969. No minister has denied that remark.

Let me take a look at what can and should be done to benefit western farmers through the means of a long range program if only the government had the initiative to deal with the problems confronting western Canada. There has been talk of a 20 cents a bushel payment on grain delivered last year. Under the three criteria set down by the Minister of Agriculture such a payment would well qualify. However, it would not alleviate the problems that exist today, though it would help those who need help the most. Such a payment might well fit into a long term program for the general welfare of Canadian farmers, particularly the wheat farmers.

Let me also take a look at the two price system on which the minister has been waffling. What does the Canadian Wheat Board think of a two price system? I should like to quote from the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, report No. 41, for Wednesday, May 28, at page 1625, and in particular the remarks of Mr. McNamara, the Chairman of the Wheat Board, with regard to a two price system. I asked Mr. McNamara:

I wonder, Mr. McNamara, if you could give us some idea of the difficulty you might run into if Canada did adopt a two-price system. In a sense, France is operating today on a two-price system, perhaps not clearly visible to most people, but I think the principle is established there. What difficulties would you run into in the international field if we were to adopt the two-price system?

That is putting it pretty bluntly but clearly to the Chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board. In reply he said:

I do not think there would be any difficulties at all.

I underline the words "at all".

I have seen some discussion on this and there might be some technical regulations of GATT but if they were difficulties, they have long since been voided by practically every other country in the world.

Again, I underline those words.

If the Canadian government, the Canadian Parliament, decided to effect the two-price system, it would not affect our operations at all as long as they take our advice how to do it.