

Speech from the Throne

land, I just got a divorce from the old man; I had to laugh at the judge's decision, he gave him the kids and they wasn't his'n"! That toast pretty well illustrates the type of justice we have in our society today.

I obtained certain information from the deputy minister's office regarding personal income taxes since the government has been telling us about the number of people who will pay less income tax. It appears that in 1970, 9,195,000 people paid income tax. The estimated number for 1971 is 9,498,000 and for 1972, 9,436,000. In other words, only 60,000 fewer people, it is estimated, will pay personal income tax in 1972 compared with 1971. So why all this talk about millions of people who will not have to pay income tax? These are the figures that were provided to me this afternoon. What has been done in the meantime? The propaganda machine has been hard at work illustrating justice Liberal style. I do not think the people of this country can be fooled very long.

• (1550)

I have illustrated the income position of our farmers. I have illustrated, by comparison, what this means in terms of dollars and cents. I have illustrated the intrigue which has been built up. All we have is Information Canada and a big bureaucracy hard at work trying to sell an idea which cannot be sold. In no way will the unemployed people in my area be satisfied when their payments are two months in arrears. This is all for the sake of what? A revamped plan. If one is unemployed how can one have sufficient money on which to get along? Figures were quoted in respect of an exemption of \$1,500. What is there to be proud about in the fact that somebody has not earned \$1,500 in this country. A person cannot live on bread and water and the roots in the ground. One still needs a few clothes and so on. Then, there is the matter of rent.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but I believe I have said enough to point out that there is no just society and to point out that there is a good deal of propagandizing. Everybody in the west is cynical about the situation. When there was frozen damp grain on the ground, the government should have come to their rescue. Then, the people might have believed the government. But the government left them alone to fight for themselves. Then, the rules in respect of cash advances were changed to make it impossible to get payments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure I have the opportunity to speak in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I was quite interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) on the recent by-election in Assiniboia. I should like to remind the hon. member for Mackenzie that it was not the Conservative party which won the by-election in Assiniboia. I should like to remind the hon. member that it was not the Conservative party that, over the years has advocated the two-price system for wheat, but rather the New Democratic Party. I should like also to remind the hon. member that it was not the Conservative party which stood to the end against the

[Mr. Korchinski.]

government's grain stabilization bill but rather the New Democratic Party.

I come from an area of the country which is one of the finest grain and cattle-producing areas in existence. The city of Weyburn and the many towns in the riding are an integral part of the agricultural areas surrounding them. The life style of people in this area is based on hard work, along with co-operation with one's fellow man. That is why the area's economy is very much based on the principles of the co-op and credit union movement.

I should like to deal with the references in the Speech from the Throne to agriculture in general. The last four years of Liberal government could very well be called the wasted years. During the Parliamentary recess, I spent my time travelling the 34,000 square miles of the Assiniboia constituency. In the many towns and rural communities, the farmers reminded me of the very difficult economic situation in which they find themselves under this present Liberal government. They find their way of life being threatened by the increasing difficulties faced by farm people. It is the record of this government in coming to grips with these problems I want to deal with today.

While travelling the riding I heard the announcement of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board of a two-price system for wheat. The establishment press immediately heralded the announcement as a great victory for the minister. We in the west have given up believing the establishment press a long time ago. The farmers I talked to in Assiniboia were not so quick to heap praise on the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, the very same man who initiated the erroneous Lift program.

How well farmers remember their battles with the old parties, be it Liberal or Conservative, to initiate a two-price system for wheat. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the farmers do not forget their friends, for it was the old CCF and NDP that stated the case for the two-price system here in the House of Commons. The Assiniboia by-election indicated the complete rejection of the government's record in the field of agriculture. Now, we see the government attempting to repent its wasted years. Last minute repentance on the part of this government will do it no good in the next federal election. The farmers I talked to in the Assiniboia area told me to point out a few facts to the government.

First of all, the grain producers are quite concerned about the method of paying out the additional moneys. We shall wait in anticipation for a detailed statement by the minister on the method of distribution. I suppose the government is going to use the two-price system as a cure-all for agricultural policies. I am sure in the next election the government will convey to the non-farmers in this country that all possible has been done to aid the farmer. May I point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that prices on other grains in the last year have reached some all-time lows. For example, on September 22, 1971 the price of rye was 92 cents per bushel, the price for barley was 99 cents per bushel and the price of oats was 61 cents per bushel. Yet the cost of production continues to rise, catching the farmer in a cost-price squeeze. This government's phony war on inflation did not prevent the cost of farm machinery parts from going up. Why not any action on the Barber Royal Commission's recommendations on the