

term objectives which have remained untouched over a period of years by those who today form the opposition group in parliament. I do not think that anyone in western Canada will seriously consider this assistance as peanuts, as was suggested by the hon. member for Assiniboia the other day, nor do I believe his reference to it as a pittance will go down very well with many thinking farm people. At the same time, I acknowledge that does not mean that the needs of the western farmer have been fully met.

The stabilization bill fulfils a widespread need in many parts of this country, and it will become increasingly important as the production of livestock continues to increase in our province. Earlier in the estimates we had an item of \$17,500,000 to reimburse the eastern feeder for his purchases of western grown grains. This measure is designed to help the eastern farmer, but at the same time it is an incentive to the movement of western grown grains which the western Canadian farmers certainly appreciate.

This session of parliament has granted, almost to the last detail, those things for which the farmers in western Canada have asked. There has been the amendment to the P.F.A.A. to which all who produce grain in western Canada contribute on every bushel they sell. The problem of crop insurance and farm credit has been under study, and the Prime Minister has held out hope that those things will be brought before us at the next session of parliament.

The government must have had a good reason for deciding that farms of 200 acres or less were the ones upon which to base their short term assistance. Some people in western Canada will be disappointed that the government did not decide on a unit that could more properly be described as an average size farm in grain growing areas. I have given this matter a great deal of consideration, and have come to the conclusion that perhaps as a result of this choice the government has allowed a principle to be established upon which farm people will be able to build a powerful case when the ranks are finally closed as between farmers in all parts of Canada, and when they come armed with the statistical data to establish their right to a full and fair share of the national income.

From each of the western provinces there have been those who have devoted themselves diligently and faithfully to their constituents in this matter. It has been a source of satisfaction to be associated with them in the agricultural caucus of our party. I think it is only fitting that on this occasion so near the end of the session I should express the appreciation and satisfaction that has come to us all as members from other parts of Canada

have shown the same desire and capacity to envision a truly national policy for agriculture.

If I have one regret in this whole matter I hope that I may be pardoned. It is that the constituency of Assiniboia did not have a representative in the government caucus to speak for the people of that great grain growing area of Saskatchewan. Their representative in the commons could only ask the question: "When?" It did not matter how many times he asked that question, it did not add a single dollar to the amount embodied in this estimate. In fact, the hon. member for Assiniboia seems to have forgotten—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. In this item 663 I do not see anything mentioned about the hon. member for Assiniboia. I would greatly appreciate it if the hon. member would stick to item 663.

Mr. Nasserden: The policy of this government in providing funds to purchase wheat for disposal in certain areas where we might not otherwise be able to secure a commercial market is one that should assist in the reduction of our wheat carry-over; and to the extent to which that carry-over is reduced, deliveries will be increased from farms in western Canada. This should have a relieving effect on the problems arising in those areas where yields have been above normal. It would appear to me at this time there should be little wheat left on farms at the end of this crop year, owing to natural crop conditions as well as the marketing policy and disposal plans of the government.

I should like to say also that I am one of those in western Canada who produce grain. Our harvest started about two weeks ago, and I have had to curb my impatience to hear again the rhythm of harvest machinery, a tune that shells out Canada's second largest single export item. That should be a reminder to people in all parts of this country that we are fortunate in Canada indeed to have the cereal producing areas within our borders.

I should also like to say that it should be a reminder to people in all parts of this country that without these resources of cereals we would be bidding in the export market today for bread grains. Maybe then people in this country would appreciate the value of a bushel of wheat in relation to the incomes that they enjoy today.

During the past two weeks, awaiting the introduction of this measure, I have had the leisure to re-examine the history of the party that first won my loyalty at a time when there were few indeed who were giving it a second thought as an instrument through which to achieve some of the principles important to the industry in which I found myself. During