

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

understand them in a way that his colleague did not, since in many cases the dates clearly show that the grain was to be delivered at a later period in the crop year. The hon. member then might realize that in almost every case the grain has been delivered under those contracts, some of which have been completed. But in almost every case the grain is going out, with the one exception where much longer time has been taken, the one referred to by the hon. member, the contract with the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Downey: Fortunately, I did look at the figures in the report, and when you speak of the time limit—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I respectfully suggest to the hon. member that he should direct his remarks to the minister through the Chair.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, since the minister asked me a question, might I be allowed to comment on it? I think it is more likely that you have not studied the figures very closely, Mr. Minister. The time limit for deliveries of grain to the bulk of the countries listed in the report has expired. I think only two had extensions of time, one until 1973, and I forget the other extension. But do not lead the House astray by saying that the delivery periods in the Wheat Board report did not expire in the case of the bulk of the countries named.

I was speaking about the difficult situation we are facing with our grain sales and relating this to cash advances. No matter what party a member belongs to, we all know that he does his work to best advantage. Nevertheless, at times we were disappointed by some of the provisions of the marketing board bill and various other pieces of farming legislation which we attributed to the various ministers who brought the bills forward. However, in a speech in June, 1968, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) set out all these programs even before he had appointed ministers to the various portfolios.

With all due respect to the Prime Minister, coming from an area like Westmount we cannot expect him to have an agricultural point of view and to formulate practical policies for grain marketing, and that sort of thing, in the same way as somebody like yourself, Mr. Minister, or the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). I feel sorry that you gentlemen are forced into the position where you have to try and perpetuate unrealistic policies put forward by the Prime Minister before you had anything to do with your present portfolios.

Another undesirable feature of our grain sales is the reduction of terminal storage. Over the long run I do not think this will prove to be a healthy situation. The Prime Minister is an intelligent man. However, knowing that his policies are not working—though I do not know that he cares about that—and bearing in mind some of the places he visits on his trips, I can only assume he is going to Russia within the next week or two to get some more ideas on how to run this country. Certainly if any member of the House spent as much time in iron curtain countries as he does, there would be quite a large dossier on him in Ottawa.

I contend that if the credit difficulties on farms to which I have referred are ignored, then the government

[Mr. Lang.]

will end up owning the farms of this country by default. The government itself will be in the farming business. The measures brought before the House are designed to give the government control, control and more control. If the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) brings in legislation that is anything like the proposals contained in his white paper, then the government will control other segments of industry.

There was an interesting article in yesterday's *Edmonton Journal* regarding an announcement made by the Prime Minister in Vancouver. The article is headed "PM suggests city for youth in the north" and reads as follows:

Prime Minister Trudeau suggested Monday that 10,000 Canadian youths could begin a new city in Canada's northlands.

In a television interview the Prime Minister said building such a city would test the values of Canadian youth. He also suggested the government would be willing to help.

"You've got some engineers, you've got some doctors, you've got some groovy people—people who want to live in communes—go and stake out a new city up there."

Mr. Trudeau said that building roads in Newfoundland or paving the Alaska Highway would not satisfy Canadian youth today because they want to find different types of projects. He said he is sure the government will help set up such structures if there is a real desire for it.

Mr. Trudeau was in Vancouver for the beginning of a royal tour marking the British Columbia centennial.

Although the Prime Minister is talking of starting a beautiful city in the north for youth, he does not say how that city is to be supported. I do not know whether he plans to support such a city with welfare, or whether he plans to send all the farmers who are going broke to the north to populate this new city.

Mr. Baldwin: Not one; we need five.

Mr. Downey: Yes, at least that many. Most urban dwellers would go along with the idea of putting more money into the agricultural industry if they realized the consequences of its failure in terms of social costs, the decrease in the cost of living and the associated problems. It is far more important that we maintain the price of farm produce, giving these people some real income rather than loans or cash advances. This must be the cheapest and most logical form of assistance we can provide in order to continue our success as a nation.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will recognize the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave), although I was under the impression he had spoken. If that is not the case, he now has the floor.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take up too much time but there are one or two points in the bill that I think are worthy of note. I think it is good that it makes provision for cash advances under circumstances of crop failure because of an early snowfall. This provision regularizes something which has been done on two or three occasions when such action was necessary to handle the marketing of tough or damp grain. I hope this measure will correct some of the errors