

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

being the fullest possible potential of the program as envisaged.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it was clear from the beginning in connection with the Lift program that the number of dollars available to farmers would be paid on the basis of \$6 per acre in the case of forage and \$10 per acre taken out of wheat and transferred to non-production or forage. When we expressed satisfaction with the performance under the Lift program it was done essentially against a background of gloom and prophesies of complete non-cooperation from farmers which the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and his hon. friends had been making for many days at the time the program was announced.

Indeed, but for their sowing confusion about the nature of the program and the desirability of farmers participating in it, the amount spent under the program would probably have been higher. It would also have meant greater benefit to the Prairie farmers. Hon. members opposite have it on their conscience when they mislead some farmers into growing wheat instead of either selling

their surplus, if they had one, or planting other crops if that was the logical alternative.

In fact, the total amount of money that will be spent under the Lift program when it is concluded will likely be in the neighbourhood of \$65 million. Some \$57.7 million and a few more dollars has now been spent; \$65 million will likely be the total. There was never any promise of money apart from the program, but an amount of \$100 million was put into the estimates since we thought it was a realistic figure, though on the high side. Since then we have put \$40 million into the program for forage incentives over a three-year period, but the hon. member ignores that. We put \$10 million a year into marketing development, as I have indicated. We will put another \$10 million a year into marketing development, but the hon. member ignores that.

The truth of the matter is that in every program we devise, we try in every way we know to help farmers of the Prairie region receive more cash for their efforts and to have a more prosperous future.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.