

At the moment the average price for barley sold in my area through the Canadian Wheat Board is about 72 cents a bushel. Just the other day the minister stated that he did not think a final payment would be made on barley, but if one were calculated it would be so small that it would not be worth while attempting to pay it. So the farmer receives 72 cents for his barley in the elevator but he can take it down the road to a feed lot and get 80 cents, so naturally that is what he is going to do. Although he may have taken a cash advance he is not inclined to deliver it to the elevator and lose 8 cents a bushel. Instead, he attempts to repay the cash advance in cash because this is more beneficial to him.

● (9:50 p.m.)

Some farmers attempt to repay cash advances partly through sales of grain and partly by cash. According to evidence given to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, approximately 15,000 farmers repay their advances partly in cash. On page 49 of committee proceedings No. 53 the minister gave the exact figures. When dealing with agricultural legislation one must be careful to quote accurate figures to avoid being accused of using misleading figures. The minister said:

I am told that the figure of producers paying off their advances totally in cash has ranged between 300 and 600; paying off partly in cash has ranged between 13,000 and 15,000.

That answer clearly spells out the number of farmers who repay partly in cash as well as those who repay all their advances in cash. This amendment deals with another aspect of the matter. The Wheat Board may take it upon themselves to ascertain whether a farmer has actually sold the grain, against which he took the advance, to a feed mill or feed lot or whether he sold it to a neighbour for a seed grain. If the board's informants discover that the farmer no longer has the grain, the board can attempt to foreclose, declare the cash advance overdue and attempt to collect it—and interest may be charged. One witnesses under this government a creeping increase in the use of bureaucracy.

An hon. Member: It is galloping, not creeping.

Mr. Horner: There is a creeping extension of the use of bureaucratic power within the structure of government. The minister has said that the powers referred to were included in the old act. Certainly they are in the old act, but there were not 46,000 producers behind in payments and whose payments were due. Under the old act the government did not attempt to snoop into the lives of people engaged in various sectors of our economy. These powers may have been available to the bureaucracy but they were not used.

Mr. McCleave: Now there is to be snoopocracy.

Mr. Horner: I hear a new word, snoopocracy, in connection with this bill. The snoopocracy of an overzealous government will attempt to pry into the financial and economic affairs of individuals. When I said that we are witnessing a creeping extension of the powers of bureaucracy, an hon. member interjected by saying that the extension is galloping, not creeping. More and more

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

Canadians are becoming aware of this fact and are afraid of the trend.

Canadians recently returned their census forms. Most of them are hypersensitive to the idea of bureaucratic empires being built up and directed by the government. I am not criticizing the civil service and I hope that civil servants will not misinterpret my remarks. These powers have long been available to the civil service but have not been used. That is true of many other pieces of legislation. Now the civil service is being asked to use its power and to develop its talent for snooping into the private and economic affairs of farmers. I underline the phrase "economic affairs". Although the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said that the government has no business in the bedrooms of the nation, it seems clear that it believes it has some business with the pocketbooks of people of this nation. It is concerned about the farmer's ability to repay. I see the minister nodding his head in the affirmative. I appreciate his being so co-operative and candid. Farmers are losing their ability to repay.

I would not mind if a farmer were placed in a difficult position through actions he himself took. But the farmer has been placed in this position as a result of government action. No matter how many wheat sales are made, the government has placed the farmer in this position against the advice the opposition gave at the time. They have placed him in this position by bringing the repayments under this legislation and by putting out of whack, to use Mr. Earl's words, the farmer's ability to repay. I regret, to see this happening in the field of agriculture. I regret that the minister seems to be taking this in his stride. He seems proud that he will be the big boss of the new snoopocracy which is to operate under the Canadian Wheat Board.

I regret that the government has resorted to this action in the field of agriculture, particularly since agriculture is encountering greater and greater complications with regard to the quota system and the delivery system. I regret that the snoopocracy and the threat of intervention by the snoopocracy will affect the quality of life of the farmer and the freedom he has enjoyed until this time.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—SOLUTION FOR PROBLEM OF REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN NOW IN INDIA

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, on June 2 I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) what steps the government was taking to promote a long-range solution to the crisis in India and Pakistan. With the sardonic flippancy which so often characterizes his utterances about matters domestic or foreign, the Prime Minister sought to score points rather than convey informa-