

many of the elevators are already full so the farmers cannot deliver that crop.

• (1130)

I have never seen a more cavalier attitude than the one we saw from the former agriculture minister. Several years ago the government did away with the advanced payment program, the interest free cash advance. In the spring of 1989 it had been done away with and then brought back by Order in Council that same fall.

It is never known now whether there is going to be an interest free cash advance or not. This year we did not know until late September or early October whether this assistance was going to be available. A program has been available in western Canada where if the crop cannot be harvested the government will give the interest free cash advance. The level of the interest free cash advance has been set at \$50,000.

Last fall, the corn producers and others in southwestern Ontario where the crop is relatively more expensive per acre, asked if that interest free cash advance could be made available in Ontario and Quebec and in other parts of the east on the same basis as the regular interest free cash advance of \$50,000. The minister hemmed and hawed and the agriculture committee passed a resolution calling on the government to make this interest free cash advance of \$50,000 available. That went on and on and on.

Finally, in December the government agreed to make available \$15,000 which is the same level as in the west, plus \$3,000 for drying cost. However, it was made so late that out of the 25,000 corn producers, so far to my understanding only 20 of those producers have been able to take advantage of the interest free cash advance for unharvested grain.

What a disaster. Producers are having difficulty getting the crop off but they have GRIP and crop insurance to guarantee the crop and they only get interest free cash advance on half of the crop anyway. The government will not provide the same interest free cash advance for unharvested grain as it will for harvested grain.

Supply

Then when the Ontario corn producers tried to implement the interest free cash advance there was a little hooker in there. Treasury Board had set the amount of the interest free cash advance available at \$41 million. They had to hustle around to various banks to find the money. The parliamentary secretary never talks about all these little hookers that the government has in there to hinder and to confound the farmers of this area.

One possible source for all of this low grade corn would be for livestock feed in Cuba, but they cannot get the credit available. The Canadian Wheat Board has credits available. The possible market for this low grade corn is for livestock feed in Cuba, but the credit arrangements are simply not there. These producers are so frustrated that we see in the press reports this week where a group of farmers down in Lucknow, Ontario have put together a meeting of 1,000 people to protest the lack of action by the government to assist. The situation is really very serious as we commence 1991.

A report put out by the WEFA forecasting group in late December says that government programs boost 1992 income, but a crash in 1993 income is forecast. Clearly that is the case.

Looking back at why there was some increase in government support programs in 1992 one finds it all came from the massive rallies that occurred throughout the fall of 1991. The government had chopped its support programs in 1990. Even though the world price of wheat had dropped to \$2 a bushel, the lowest since the 1930s, the lowest in real terms in history, the government finally approved a payment under FSAM-2—that is the federal smoke and mirrors program number two—in the fall of 1991 for \$800 million. That \$800 million of course was not paid until 1992, otherwise the income situation would have been even worse in 1992 than it was. Even there we saw these massive rallies because of the inadequacies of the government programs.

The WEFA report forecast a drop of 21 per cent in net farm income in 1993. That is similar to the figures for Saskatchewan. It is in proportion.

The situation as we enter 1993, six or seven years after the international trade war began, is even worse than it was then. We see the total inadequacies of the government support programs but more than that we see the government chiselling on this. It is not known whether the interest free cash advance is going to be available until October or December. It is always a fight to get any