

supporting the grab and steal tax that his government has introduced?

The government concedes that that particular tax is going to create another 3 per cent inflation, which brings us from 5 per cent to 8 per cent inflation. You have to assume that there is going to be some way to catch up on that another 2 per cent or 3 per cent. Then we are at 10 or 11 per cent inflation.

Given the fact that this government stands behind the Bank of Canada policy of raising interest rates to counter inflation, it takes no imagination at all—in fact I think it is a very accurate forecast—to say that if inflation as a result of the grab and steal tax gets to 10 and 12 per cent we could be looking at 18 to 20 per cent interest rates within the next year or within a year of that tax being introduced.

It is totally preposterous for the minister to suggest that farmers have to eat this \$27 million to lower the interest rates when both their interest rate policy itself and their approach to the grab and steal tax are going to raise those interest rates.

The minister failed completely to deal with the whole question of fairness that is involved in this matter. He went so far as to say that it is going to enhance orderly marketing and so on, because there are all these farmers out there who refuse to go out in 40 below weather in the morning to shovel out their augers and tractors and get their machinery running to shovel grain.

He is saying that these are the people who are destroying the orderly marketing system and that they have to be brought into line by making them pay interest on cash advances. That is one of the most outrageous statements probably ever made by a Minister of Agriculture in this House. I am looking forward to sending out copies of *Hansard* to farmers in my constituency and to other farmers I know in the country, so that they can see what the minister's analysis of the orderly marketing system is. There is an inherent unfairness to this and it has been pointed out by many members but it does not seem to have penetrated into the minister's thinking in any kind of way.

As has been clearly outlined—and nobody denied it; certainly he did not—the grain handling system only has capacity for less than 40 per cent of the grain that is produced in any one year. Therefore, 60 per cent of the grain cannot in fact, no matter what the business climate,

no matter what the intentions of the farmers, enter that grain handling system when it is taken off the fields.

### *Government Orders*

What the minister is in fact saying is that those people who get their crop off earlier, or happen to have harvested grades of wheat that are currently in the shipping program of the Canadian Wheat Board or other marketing organizations, can obviously get cash up front because they can sell their crop for cash. Those farmers who have a late harvest because of adverse conditions, which it often is in the part of the country that I represent, the northern prairies, cannot get their grain in; the elevators are plugged.

Or perhaps, as is the case this year again, there is an awful lot of feed wheat and very poor quality grain on the prairies for which the Canadian Wheat Board has not developed a marketing program because it did not know it was there. The demand is there for high quality wheat, so the people who have the high quality wheat can get their money up front; but the people who harvested late and are already in trouble, already have poor grades of grain, are going to be out of luck. They are going to have to pay interest solely for the reason that there is not room in the elevators and because they had a poor and a late crop.

How can the minister say that in any way that is fair? In the same way that discriminates against farmers geographically. The most classic example, ironically, is in his own province. In Saskatchewan and Alberta grain farmers have the advantage of being able to ship grain through the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver. That is always an option. There is a well developed grain handling system that heads off to the west coast. That system has ice-free ports and can function right through the winter.

However, for Manitoba producers it is a much different situation because their grain gets shipped out through Thunder Bay which has a long shutdown through the winter, which means that Manitoba farmers have no marketing option at all and no delivery option at all. Once the elevators are full and the port freezes up that system shuts down, so the very producers who he represents are the ones who are going to be hit the worst by this. It is no wonder that an executive member from his own constituency association rises at the Conservative convention and says his chances of re-election are slim and nil. I think it is very clear from this kind of an