

Supply—Finance

a resolution in the provincial legislative assembly asking the provincial government to call on the federal government to honour its pledge of \$2 per bushel for wheat. Naturally there is considerable dissatisfaction on that point because the promise was made and subsequently broken. Now the final price to the producer is several cents lower than it was in the preceding year and this too is causing dissatisfaction.

The cost-price squeeze is being accentuated. We talk about a war on poverty, land purchase, land resale and so on, but with the kind of pricing practice being followed it seems there will have to be many square miles and sections of land purchased in western Canada and resold for consolidation unless the government takes some action, perhaps through a two-price system, to increase returns to producers. If it does not, low incomes and poverty will be more widespread than they are at present.

The third cause for dissatisfaction among western producers is the fact that sales of over 100 million bushels of grain, if not 200 million bushels, have been lost because Canada's transportation facilities are inadequate to move any more grain to the ports.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Farm organizations talk about the need for maintaining an adequate price, the need for a two-price system and the need for parity prices. In the past they were told parity prices were not possible because of the great surplus problem faced at that time. The fact of the matter is that the so-called surplus problem in Canadian agriculture is fast becoming a thing of the past. In a few short years there will be no such thing as a surplus problem of any longlasting duration. Therefore I hope that, if nothing else, the inadequacy of our transportation facilities in this country will go to demonstrate that we should have sold a lot more than we did in the past year if only we could have marshalled the facilities to deliver what we had been able to produce.

I harbour no malice or ill will toward the present Minister of Finance, the man in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, but I do hope he will look seriously into the farm income problem even though he is not responsible for agriculture per se and then work together with the Canadian Wheat Board to see what can be done to raise grain prices to the western farmers.

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[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, on item 1 of the estimates of the Department of Finance, I would like to raise today one of the most important problems affecting seriously the Canadian economy, not only at the national level, but also at the provincial and municipal levels—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Order. Would the hon. member resume his seat?

I understand that hon. members have now more or less agreed to discuss the Canadian Wheat Board. As this seems to be the understanding, I wonder if the hon. member for Lapointe could make his remarks later on when the house is considering other items pertaining to the Department of Finance.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, since we are now considering item 1 of the estimates of the Department of Finance, we may deal with the problems facing that department. This is precisely what I am doing.

At the outset, when it was decided to consider this department's estimates, we said that on item 1, all the problems related to the Department of Finance could be dealt with. If other members wanted to bring up several matters, such as the Canadian Wheat Board, they were free to do so, but according to the procedure, you know it as well as I do, Mr. Chairman, when we are considering the first item of a department, we may discuss any problem concerning that department. We do not have to agree to a different arrangement on that point.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Jorgenson) has something to say about the remarks of the hon. member for Lapointe.

[*English*]

Mr. Jorgenson: Mr. Chairman, in support of what the hon. member for Lapointe has said I should like to say that I think the understanding was that we would deal with item No. 1 in whatever way hon. members wished to deal with it and if some hon. members wished to talk about something other than the Canadian Wheat Board they would be at liberty to do so and those who wished to talk about the Canadian Wheat Board would also be at liberty to do so.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the hon. member for Lapointe and the hon. member for Provencher are certainly correct when they suggest that many other matters

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