

*Wheat Export Prices*

hon. member suggested that we should be very selective. Does his reasoning also relate to old age security, which is paid to millionaires? Is that the type of reasoning he has in mind, and does this apply across the board? Is this Liberal policy that is being enunciated, because apparently the member has been selected as one of the spokesmen from the west.

• (9:20 p.m.)

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) suggested that only 25 per cent of the loan payments were not made as of the date they were due. If he would look up the previous record, he would find that about a year ago only 6 per cent of the loans had not been repaid. There has been a great increase in unpaid loans. Let me say further that the irresponsible statements have been made to the effect that the former minister of agriculture said "You grow wheat and we will sell it". There could be no more irresponsible statement than the one that came from the lips of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he said, "We intend to sell one billion, three hundred million bushels in three years". Nothing of the sort came about. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) tried to explain to us why this goal could not be achieved now. He said this was a kind of goal, but this is not an election year.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce attempted to chastise the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) for having made only one suggestion in his speech, that is for only advocating cash advances for the purpose of injecting money into the western economy in a hurry. Let me say that the only thing with which the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) dealt in his speech was cash advances. If anyone can find anything else in his speech, apart from a lot of words, then let him stand up and say so. I think it is somewhat unfair of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to accuse the Leader of the Opposition of having dealt with only one subject in his speech.

Many suggestions were made from this side. I realize that I have only a limited amount of time at my disposal and therefore I should like to organize my comments somewhat. First, I wish to list some of the ways in which the government could inject money into the western economy, money which even the Prime Minister himself admits is needed there. After about three days of indoctrination, and after having seen for himself what

[Mr. Korchinski.]

the situation was like, he was ready to admit there was a problem. If the meetings which we had in Saskatchewan with the members of the touring agricultural committee were not sufficient evidence, and if the representations to the government by various farming organizations were not sufficient proof for the Prime Minister, then I don't know what proof he needs. He was going to use the charm he possesses, Trudeaumania—mania it is, but not the type of mania he thought. He believed all he had to say was, "follow". They socked him right there, and he said, "whoa, there" instead of "follow".

The first thing I would suggest, regardless of what anybody else may say here is acreage payments. The Prime Minister asked, "why should we subsidize a rich farmer who possesses \$100,000 worth of property?" It is all right provided there is a ceiling, and it is up to the government to select that ceiling. The point is to inject some money into the economy in the west. What the government does not realize is that it is not only the farmers who are broke; it is everybody down the line. The businessmen in the west have gone broke and so have the municipalities which have had to hold back plans for new roadways. The hospitals have had to hold back their projects. The people are sitting and wondering what kind of government we have. I regret to have to say this, Mr. Speaker, but—

**An hon. Member:** Be careful, now.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I am very careful. I say this because I heard it. People are saying that this government turns only one way. They spend \$200 million on the city of Hull, and people are asking why the government does not spend \$30 million in western Canada. I will make a suggestion as to how this could be done. The International Grains Arrangement price for wheat is \$1.95½. In recent days this price has gone down by ten cents to \$1.85. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce indicated that he sold only 305 million bushels. Is \$30 million too much to spend on the three prairie provinces? Is this too much to ask of this government? Do we have to drive a tractor over the Prime Minister before he realizes that assistance is needed? What the government must realize is that these people do not want to act the way they did when the Prime Minister visited them. In the past they have not acted that way because there was no need for it.

I will speak about the Farm Credit Corporation now. In the last four or five years