

Newfoundland staying here until two o'clock in the morning to talk on the issue of wheat, about which they are not knowledgeable and perhaps do not have the same commitment as members from western Canada. It is obvious to me and to anyone with ears to hear that the issue here is much more fundamental. To me, this issue is national and is one of the most critical situations I have seen since becoming a Member of Parliament in 1968.

I heard the minister this evening stand in his place and tell us that he would be prepared to go to jail for the farmers. He told us how he would take shortcuts, how he would cut through red tape to get around the law. I could almost hear the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) coming from his lips. I would not go as far as other members of this House and say that he is only the puppet of the Prime Minister, that he is only doing what he is told, because having shadowed the minister from Saskatoon for the last couple of years and watched him take part in debates in this House I am convinced that much of what he is doing carries his own conviction. We have seen him today. I saw him earlier today stand before the national press down in the Commonwealth room and try to explain away the unemployment with which we are faced today in Canada by saying that there has been a growth in the labour force. He said to the national press—and I hope they could see through it—"I know you cannot understand what all these figures add up to, so come down with me to the Commonwealth room and I will explain away all the ills of the economy in Canada". He tried to tell the people of Canada, through the press, that the problem we have today results from the growth in the labour force, something which I heard back in 1945 when I was five or six years old, something which I heard repeated by his former prime minister in 1964, and something which I heard repeated every time there was a release on unemployment in the last three years. This minister is the most competent minister of any in this government in being able to present a deceitful situation to cover up the mess to which he and his government brought this nation. He is the most competent in this field because he has the smoothness, and the verbal diarrhea which goes with it, to be able to do this so beautifully that most people would never suspect him.

I remember one summer in my riding of Gander-Twillingate having occasion to witness, in a small community called Brown's Arm in Notre Dame Bay, a situation in which a number of very peace-loving ladies decided that they were not satisfied with the commitment which was made by their provincial government, made officially on paper during an election in 1966, to pave a piece of road in their community. Let me give you the full story. There is a great source of gravel in that community that was being used to pave roads all over the Notre Dame Bay area, and these ladies said: "Why should this gravel be hauled through our community with all the dust and resulting danger to our children and families?" The government made a commitment four or five years ago to pave the roads in that community and they had not fulfilled it, so why should they get away with it. These

#### *Withholding of Grain Payments*

ladies decided they would picket the gravel pit from which this dust originated.

This might seem like a minor story, but it was never picked up by the national press. It was one of the most fundamental things that I have ever seen happen. Mr. Speaker is smiling. I will prove to Your Honour that this is an example of how the law applies to everybody. The ladies picketed the gravel pit which belonged to the provincial department of highways. The attorney general's department issued an order to the police that the law must be enforced. The RCMP moved in and told the ladies that they would have to enforce the law unless the ladies were obedient to that law. I remember witnessing this sad situation in a small community. I will not go into the religious affiliations of the people, but suffice it to say that they were peace loving Notre Dame Bay people. I said to these people: "you cannot break the law. I am a law-maker and I would love to be able to lead you in an issue which is legitimate, but you cannot break the law". I am also a teacher and I have spent years teaching young people to obey the law and to respect discipline. I remember going into great detail about it with these people. The next day, after the warning from the RCMP, the police had no alternative—and I am not blaming them—but to move in and arrest these ladies. They carted them to jail and charges were laid.

This is an example of how the law applies. The situation was sad, but it is an example of the fact that nobody is above the law. But here we have a situation today in the House of Commons where \$90 million is being robbed from the people in western Canada, which is illegal under the law of this land. As my friend, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) indicated, here we have the minister, an eminent lawyer from Saskatoon, who is not only breaking this law but is the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. It is an unbelievable situation. I have been here a few years only, and I am a rookie in terms of the length of time in office compared to other hon. members, but I certainly feel that some of the remarks made by other hon. members were very pertinent.

I hope this debate will be well recorded and well read, because this Parliament has seen the ultimate insult. We have seen the gradual build-up to this ultimate insult—and it first started with what happened in committees. I could debate at length all that has happened in committees. I remember one night when government supporters, organized into platoons, moved in on a committee and kept it in session until 7 or 7.30 in the morning studying Bill C-176, in order to cram it down the throats of the Canadian people. Luckily we had people with the dedication of some of my western colleagues who withstood the organized efforts of the government.

● (2:00 a.m.)

I hope the Canadian people can understand what is going on in this country. We have a situation where examination of the estimates has been taken out of the House of Commons, another example of the downgrading