

*Wheat Acreage Reduction*

estly. I do not mind saying it in the House because this is the kind of thinking that must be behind the decisions that are made.

The government backed by bureaucracy is thinking only about one thing, that is, how they can make a living for themselves and offer only a guaranteed supplement.

**An hon. Member:** That is capitalism.

**Mr. Korchinski:** That is the worst form of bureaucracy. It is communism. My dear friend here is long on theory and short on practice. I wish some hon. members here had an opportunity to talk to the people who have to make that decision. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that many farmers decided last year, without the assistance of the government, to reduce their production by 15 per cent. No incentive was given them by the government. They know themselves what they will have to do. But I do not know what will happen next year. I do know that in 1961 I had no crop at all and in 1963 I had trouble with rust, flood and so on, and there was only one good crop year in six years. Does the government think I will take a chance not to put in a crop the one year which might prove to be successful?

What drives me from accepting the government's incentive is the fact that I cannot depend on this government to pull me through during periods when I am up against difficulty. So far they have in desperation come up with some sort of plan. All I can say is, thank God they have come out of their shell because at least from here on we know what they are thinking. They are telling us to get out of business.

An interesting riddle was told me the other day. What is the quickest way of creating a desert out of some of the richest land in the world? The answer is, a Liberal government program. I would have enjoyed the humour except that I myself was involved. I like to think that I can contribute something by paying my taxes. I like to think that we can produce enough food on our farms not only for ourselves but for the rest of the world. It is surprising for the government, in this day and age when a population explosion is taking place and we see on television programs about there being too many people in the world, to be so bankrupt of ideas that it has to tell us to stop growing wheat. There are 188,000 farmers in Canada and they are blamed for causing the ills of this world of millions and millions of people. You have to stretch a country mile to make me believe

[Mr. Korchinski.]

that, because we have done our share in feeding the hungry.

As I have pointed out, the government is trying to sacrifice the farmers. Perhaps we should sacrifice the machinery industry, which is not Canadian anyway. Which is better? Perhaps the government is sacrificing the wrong people. I say to the government, and particularly to the minister from Saskatchewan, that I think he has made a valiant effort to redeem himself and his government but he is not fooling me because the summer fallow will create the same problems that we had before. Anybody who knows something about the patterns of summer fallow will understand me and realize that this is not a solution to our problems. Perhaps it is a temporary stopgap and it may bring some relief to the farmers and get a few members to Liberal political meetings out in the west, but so far as the western farmer is concerned the government is a long way away from coming to a solution.

[Translation]

**Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few brief remarks on the motion before us, not because I am directly interested in the program announced by the minister but because his suggestions to the western provinces resemble all too much what we have had to put up with in other spheres in the eastern provinces. I feel for all the western wheat producers and I understand their anger on hearing about such a program.

I feel that is the best program ever put forward by a Liberal minister and I say it proves what the Liberals are capable of. During the war, the Liberal party paid people to burn goods while today, they are getting ready to pay the producer to stop producing. With programs like that you can imagine where Canada is heading for.

I was reading today in *Le Soleil* for March 2, about that wonderful program. I was absolutely astounded. This evening, I must bow to the evidence.

• (9:00 p.m.)

One can read in *Le Soleil* the minister's statement to the effect that the government of Canada is suggesting that the wheat acreage of 24.5 million acres be reduced by 22 million acres in western Canada. Mr. Speaker, I am just speaking as a humanitarian and I cannot imagine that we have reached the point where we are going to refuse to seed 22 million acres of land to wheat especially when two-thirds of mankind are not eating three