

**Senator Barootes:**—or anyone else, it doesn't matter. Recalling my life on the prairies, I think that about the worst time was the period between 1935 and 1939, 1937 being a particularly destructive year. I do not identify who was in power at the time, except to say that drought, grasshoppers, infestation and blowing winds gave us a very bad time.

I can give the honourable senator another figure to think about, if anyone believes that we do not recognize the sufferings of our farmers. Suffer with them? We die with them. When I was in practice, most of my patients were farmers—and most of them were older farmers who had gone through the depression. If the honourable senator takes the cost of living index as it was originally established, from 1932 to 1935, and updates it to the different changes that were made when we went back to 100, started over again, and then again brought it back to 100—two or three times—and if he considers the lowest price that was paid for wheat in Canada, which I believe would be about 1932 or 1933—the extrapolation of such figures might be a little managed, or not be fully comparable, because other things have been put into the cost of living index—I would suggest that the price of wheat this last year was at least as low as it was in that worst period of time. That is why I say that honourable senators opposite have no exclusive monopoly on identifying with the suffering of the farm people of western Canada. We also suffer with them.

Therefore, I take umbrage at the idea that we have to be preached and lectured to about what farmers are going through in western Canada.

**Senator Olson:** You are in office. You can do something about it.

**Senator Barootes:** The honourable senator spoke about the new Grains Assistance Act. We are all aware of the figures. We are all aware of the 30 per cent and 70 per cent, and that money will be paid out; but there are certain calculations and administrative matters to be taken care of first. By March 31 each farmer, acting on his own behalf as a recipient of this benefit, must make an application providing certain information from his own books—grain stored and sold, and so on—and it is on that basis that the administration can then undertake to make payments.

I hope, as I have some experience in the west, that we do not seed on April 1 in too many areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. As honourable senators know, much of it is done in May, and even right into June.

Senator Olson brought up the matter of crop insurance. I am well aware of where the money for crop insurance comes from. Some is contributed by the farmers on a per bushel basis and the rest is contributed by the federal government, and it is paid out by the provincial governments on the basis that it is easier to administer it at the provincial level. The provincial governments absorb only the administration costs of doing that work. That is why it is left at the provincial level.

But surely the honourable senator would not in one instance accuse the federal government of using farmers' money and pretending it is their own, and on that basis try to tell me that

it is provincial money that is being paid out from crop insurance simply because it comes out of an administrative office in Regina, Calgary or Edmonton. Obviously, the money represents crop insurance contributed to by both parties.

So I bring to honourable senators my hurt feelings about this. I do not think it helps to bring forward dire and gloomy circumstances, predictions, and almost making the wish the father to the thought, that things in western Canada are going to be that bad. I am afraid they will be, but we are not helping ourselves by doing that. I will leave the honourable senator with one challenge. If he looks at these 52 pages, he will see, leading up to July 22, 1986, the amount of dollars, \$5.18 billion, which has been made available and provided to the Canadian agriculture industry through the Canadian government. And when I say the Canadian government, I do not mean the Progressive Conservative government, because it has indeed been built up through all administrations. But I will say this as a challenge to you, and I would be willing to take my chances on it: That in the 120 years of Confederation, which is what we are at today, no other Government of Canada has given more attention, more care, or more sensitivity to the needs of the agricultural sector of our economy and of the grain farmers of western Canada.

● (1520)

**Senator Olson:** They have never been worse off, either.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Senator Barootes:** Honourable senators, I move that the bill be read the third time at the next sitting of the Senate.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, speaking to the motion, are we not going to send the bill to committee?

**Senator Argue:** No.

**Senator Olson:** I do not think it is necessary.

**Senator Frith:** I knew that if I asked the question I would get an immediate answer from my colleagues.

**Senator Doody:** What a warm feeling!

On motion of Senator Barootes, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

## CANADA SHIPPING ACT

### BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator MacDonald (*Halifax*), seconded by the Honourable Senator Robertson, for the second reading of the Bill C-39, An Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act and to amend the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act, the