

you can look at Morris Rodweeder in Yorkton. These organizations may not mean very much in the scheme of things to some hon. members. You do not see them very often in the *Globe and Mail* or in the *Wall Street Journal*, but they are there and I ask the government, "What are they living on?" To a large extent they are living on the farming communities of western Canada. They are providing these communities with the services and the machines they need, they are providing the towns and cities of western Canada with commodities they need and in return they are running a business and making a profit. These organizations are to be ignored.

Is it intended to offer a drawback to large corporations which would make it even more difficult for organizations of this kind to survive? After that, Mr. Speaker—or perhaps before that, because I look at the community as a whole—you start looking at the farming community, at the people who are the primary producers, the purchasers of the goods and services which companies of this kind provide. I asked the minister in charge of the Wheat Board today to tell us what is to be the policy with regard to the sale of barley and malt to the United States market. The answer I received was not clear. Certainly the answer tells us nothing. Rye, which again is a farm product, is in a much more difficult position than barley.

● (8:10 p.m.)

An hon. Member: But it is good to drink.

Mr. Gleave: I am talking of the original product. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) said that these situations would be looked at, as I recall his speech, on a commodity by commodity basis and that the Agricultural Prices Support Act provisions would come into play. The grains to which I have referred are not covered by that legislation, nor are many other products that I could name.

The Canadian Dairy Commission is the "big wheel" now in the dairy industry. George McLaughlin had this to say prior to the compilation of the legislation that we are now discussing:

"Our basic problem is we have a milk shortage in Ontario," said McLaughlin. Ontario won't have enough butter this year, its milk supplies are down and there is even the possibility that the province will have to import cheddar cheese if the British continue to buy it at their present rate, he said.

For any government to create a shortage of dairy products in the province of Ontario is a real achievement. It is about the equal of creating a shortage of wheat in Saskatchewan. But apparently the government has succeeded. According to those who are in a position to know, success has crowned the government's efforts.

Mr. Woolliams: That is the trouble with socialism, even in the area of agriculture.

Mr. Gleave: We have not done so badly. To keep a farm going over the years is no mean effort. I have managed to do it, but do not push me too far. As I say, this House needs a clear statement by the government as to what it intends to do about hogs and cattle under the prices support program, to keep agriculture viable and to

Employment Support Bill

assist our dairy and potato farmers. In Prince Edward Island farmers are blocking the roads to protest the agricultural policies that have been followed up to now. In Ontario farmers are picketing and persuading people not to buy certain products manufactured in plants in the province. In my opinion farmers do not lightly take this kind of action; they only do it when all else has failed.

With regard to grain and wheat, the government has planned a stabilization program, which is still before this House, under which it is proposed to deduct 2 per cent from gross sales of the six western grains. In view of the situation our farmers are now facing, I think this program should be scrapped. The farmers are already carrying all the load they can bear. The government talks of paying out \$100 million to the farmers, and they should do it now. I quoted some figures to show the House how serious is the situation that exists, a situation that has been ignored to date.

We should not forget that agriculture is a primary industry. It generates dollars and spending power. One of our first concerns should be to see that agriculture remains healthy. It is an industry that employs people, not only on the farms but in industries that serve those farms. It is a renewable industry which will be here for generations to come unless we abuse it or kill it off. Yet as I say, the government has made no clear statement as to what it intends to do about this industry.

The United States has decided to impose import restrictions. Let me take the House back to 1966 and 1967 when Canada was trying to persuade the United States to renew the international wheat agreement and it would not do so. The United States would not agree to make an arrangement whereby the wheat producing nations of the world had an equal share in the market and a fair price. That was not our decision; it was the decision of the United States. As a result, we entered into an international grains arrangement which was not under the auspices of the United Nations but was formulated at what was essentially a western conference. We came out of that arrangement facing prospects that were uncertain and with a floor price for wheat that was not observed. We in Canada tried to support that agreement in face of the lack of interest shown by the United States and other countries. The present situation is simply a continuation of the lack of interest shown by the United States in reaching a world wide agreement on marketing that particular commodity. The United States wants to call the terms itself and it is calling those terms. We will have to live with those terms and reach our own decisions.

Yesterday I heard the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault), I believe it was, chiding the leader of our party because he dared to say something about creating an independent Canada. I have heard a similar statement made by members sitting to my right. Let me tell the House that there have been people in Canada who did believe that Canada could be independent, who did think it could be a sovereign state. One of the first of these people was Sir John A. Macdonald, and he drove a railroad across Canada to back up his belief. Don't we have the courage or guts in 1971 to believe that this is possible any longer? I would back anyone who had