

Withholding of Grain Payments

Saskatoon-Humboldt, a native son of western Canada, for his disobedience of the law and for running slipshod over this institution.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: Maybe he had better take the Minister of Finance with him, Mr. Speaker. In reference to the white paper I once called him a small town bookkeeper. Perhaps he had better go too, because under the act it says that he shall pay. I leave the Minister of Justice to worry. He is a young man, well educated, steeped in jurisprudence and ambitious for the chair. I will allow him to sit with his own conscience tonight because if his ambition is what I think it is, the people will take a second look at him as Minister of Justice of this country because he will not even see his own ministers fulfil the law.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: The Progressive Conservative party can be proud of the legislation it has put on the statute books for western Canada and the western farmers. We were responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board under the premiership of Mr. Bennett. We introduced ARDA, the Farm Credit Corporation, the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act and, above all, the agricultural stabilization legislation which provided that the price of certain commodities should never fall below a ten-year average. These particular statutes, approved by Parliament, are the very foundation of the economics of the farm community of western Canada. They are the birthright of the farmers of western Canada, together with the Crowsnest Pass freight rates. That is what this party has done and we are proud of our record in that regard.

• (8:20 p.m.)

What is this government trying to do? They are trying to abolish storage payments. Not only are they trying to abolish the storage paid on grain in the amount I mentioned in my opening remarks, but they want to abolish or repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act which is basically a crop insurance measure. Actually, they want to abolish everything that may help the average man to remain on the family farm in western Canada. They have broken the law and, I repeat, that shows they are discriminating against western Canada.

I ask the minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, what he has against farmers. What has this government against the farmers of western Canada? Rural Canada may be disappearing because of urbanization, yet within the rural areas of Canada the heartbeat is strong. The pioneering spirit is there. The spirit of freedom moves, and it will move again when the votes are counted after the next election. I predict that the minister who is head of the Wheat Board and who represents part of the city of Saskatoon, a city which relies on the agricultural industry, will not be among those re-elected to this institution over which he has run so slipshod.

An hon. Member: Resign.

An hon. Member: Otto, go.

Mr. Woolliams: The amount of wheat in storage in the 1965 crop year was \$33.5 million; in 1966 it was \$36,802,-
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000; in 1967 it was about \$46 million and in 1968 it was about \$79 million. We are the only wheat exporting nation in the world that does not subsidize this industry. At present we are considering the only small subsidy that is paid by the taxpayers of Canada for the storage of grain. It does not apply to grain on farms that is owned by farmers; it applies to grain that the Canadian Wheat Board buys. In addition to supporting the supremacy of Parliament and the principle of the supremacy of freedom, the government ought to obey the law relating to farmers. Never before in the history of Canada, not even in the depression, have the farmers of western Canada been so hard pressed to pay their bills.

May I conclude my speech—

An hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams:—by referring to what the Prime Minister once said. I knew the hon. member over there would applaud. The Prime Minister said, "Go and sell your own wheat." He well knew that the Wheat Board, under the law, has the power to sell wheat, and that if the government does not act in co-operation and liaison with the Canadian Wheat Board wheat cannot be sold. Men have been fined and sent to jail in western Canada because they dared transport a bushel of wheat from one province to another and sell it.

Surely, if the law applies to the farmers of this nation, it should apply to the ministers of this nation. Perhaps the legal beagles of this nation should take a look at the situation and consider what the order of the courts might be. I read three authorities this afternoon which I am sure are familiar to the dean: I am sure he has read them carefully. One is "High's Extraordinary Legal Remedies"; another is on special remedies, "Mandamus and Prohibition", by Short; and the third is "Extraordinary Legal Remedies", by Ferris. These three—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must inform him that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member may continue only if he has the unanimous consent of the House. Does the House give unanimous consent to the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I will not abuse my privilege; many hon. members wish to speak. May I say that when a minister of the Crown refuses to carry out the law, you can obtain an old remedy and get an order of mandamus forcing the minister or ministers to carry out the law. Perhaps the farmers of this nation should look at the law with legal counsel to see if they cannot get a writ of mandamus to force the Minister of Justice, the Prime Minister, and the minister in charge of the Wheat Board to carry out the law of Canada, before this institution disappears.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggarr): Mr. Speaker, I was interested in the remarks of the previous speaker. He said that we should proceed in law to demand that a minister