

*The Budget—Mr. Simpson*

cation that anything is likely to happen. I have consistently asked the Minister of Public Works whether he had any news with regard to further developments. The answer he gave was either "no comment" or the statement that it would depend entirely on the amount of co-operation the federal government received from the government of Manitoba. It is no wonder that the people of Churchill are asking to be included in the Northwest Territories.

I believe that a key factor in achieving larger wheat exports from Churchill would be for the Wheat Board to advertise that more grain was available out of that port. The Board has always argued that exports out of Churchill have remained steady for many years because the wheat moved from the port was mainly intended for the European market, and for the British market, and that the shipping season coincided with a period in which some of those countries were in the middle of their own harvest. For these reasons, they argued, sales were of necessity limited to some 23 million bushels. It is strange, however, that each year the Board should advertise that there are some 23 million bushels of wheat to be exported from Churchill and that each year this amount is snapped up quickly by interested purchasers. I challenge the Wheat Board to advertise during the balance of this year and early next year that 30 million bushels will be available out of Churchill. If they make this well known to the grain trade I am sure the amount exported from Churchill can be increased to that figure.

• (5:30 p.m.)

I realize we are in a period of inflation and I may be asked why I would suggest that money be spent at such a time in any part of Canada. Nevertheless, I should like to draw attention to some of the mistakes which have been made in relation to the program which the government is presently operating. One of these is the special areas program. I am not criticizing this program, though the time is long overdue when the government should have initiated a program of this nature. However, when the minister announced the program on March 11, I believe it was, he mentioned the areas in Canada that would be included within the program. As far as Manitoba was concerned, he said the program related to an area around The Pas. I can assure the House that the residents of that area are gratified to know that some \$2.2

million is going to be spent at The Pas. Of this \$2.2 million, I understand some \$1.7 million is in the form of grants and \$505,000 is in the form of loans.

Most of the money is going to be spent in the centre of The Pas itself. However, I am glad to see that \$500,000 will be spent in the area of The Pas reserve. I do not know, and I have been unable to find out, who determines where money is to be spent under this special areas program.

**Mr. Bell:** That is a good question.

**Mr. Simpson:** I asked the minister the question on several occasions. The first answers I got were that the government cannot determine this until the agreements have been signed by the provinces. The minister kept announcing different aspects of the program, and when I asked him which provinces had signed agreements he continued to say that no agreements had been signed as yet. I now understand that agreements have been approved. Whether or not the province of Manitoba has signed, I am not sure. But I have yet to find out who decides just where this money is going to be spent. I understand that The Pas town council, and I suppose many of the residents, are quite satisfied with the way the money has been distributed among the different projects within The Pas and the Indian reserve.

However, there are three other settlements adjacent to The Pas which apparently are being left out in the cold. These are Métis settlements. Not too long ago the government of Canada announced that it was going to embark upon a program of Métis housing in co-operation with the various provinces, again something that has been long overdue and which I congratulate the government for starting. If there is any group of people in Canada that is in dire need of housing, it is many of the Métis people who are living in small settlements.

We see at The Pas, the only area in Manitoba that has been considered under the special areas program, a situation where the town and the Indian reserve will receive grants, but three Métis settlements, the furthest one being only four miles out of town, are left out in the cold. These three settlements are Young's Point, Umpherville and Big Eddy. The odd thing is that at Young's Point five houses out of a total of 50 houses built for the Métis people in Manitoba were constructed last year to fill a long overdue need, but no sewer and water facilities have