

*The Budget—Mr. Mayer*

Canadian Wheat Board or the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) to resolve the problem the railroads tell us they are having in relation to earning not enough money from the movement of grain to maintain the kind of service they would like to maintain. We see no movement at all, and it has been said many times before—and needs to be said again—that when it comes to action on the Constitution, it is fine for the Prime Minister to expect that there be unanimity so that he can act on the basis of a consensus, but when it comes to something with which the government should be able to deal on a day to day basis, he expects unanimity among the many producers and producer groups in western Canada on how this very important problem should be resolved. If the government is truly interested in a united country, it should show leadership and provide benefits not only for the part of the country from which I come but for all parts of the country. The government has failed to do this, and that demonstrates again how bankrupt it is.

That reminds me of what crossed my mind when the Minister of National Revenue spoke about renewal. That bunch over there has been there for so long it is totally incapable of renewal, and that is reflected in the budget. The Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussi eres) is shaking his head. I have spoken with him many times, and I would be happy to see him accept many of the suggestions we on this side have made in relation to small businesses and farmers. At least he should investigate some of those suggestions so that we can find out whether we can take advantage of them. I have sent letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance suggesting some things which could be done. The Department of Finance prepares answers and sends them back to us. The answers are ridiculous and show no understanding of the problems. There is no indication that the department is looking at our suggestions with a sincere intention to do anything about them.

It is disturbing to return to our constituencies and to talk to some of the younger people in them who are attempting to get started. They want to have property, to own farms and to own homes so that they can take pride in themselves and in their country. After all, that is why this country was settled. This country held out hope to people who came to Canada from all parts of the world and homesteaded property which was not settled. People could own land. However, this government, supported by the New Democratic Party, deliberately follows a high interest rate policy. Because of that, it will be very difficult for many young people who are starting out. I have had conversations with young farmers in my riding who have grown very good crops this year. If sold, those crops will generate several hundred thousand dollars each, but these young people are in very serious trouble because they cannot move their grain.

This brings me back to grain transportation. Producers will not be able to sell as much grain as they would like in order to meet their commitments, and there is a distinct possibility that they will not be around next spring to sow another crop. That is a terrible thing to allow to happen to a young person who is

starting out. Many young farmers have been in the business four or five years and are just now getting organized and obtaining machinery. They have two or three crops under their belts. This gave them some experience. They know the kinds of crops to grow and are demonstrating their ability to be productive. However, through no fault of their own—we can clearly lay the blame at the door of the federal government—they are now unable to move the products they produce. They are unable to generate cash and are in very serious trouble and may not be able to farm another year.

Those are the kinds of things which should have been attacked in the budget. There should have been a genuine attack on inflation. We should be getting at inflation from the productive side. We should encourage production around the country. Our socialist friends in the New Democratic Party and in the Liberal Party do not understand that we cannot continue to redistribute wealth unless somebody first generates it. We know from experience that the best method of generating wealth is to give initiative to the individual and to rely on the private sector and not the big government sector. People wonder why Russia is so unproductive. I will tell hon. members the simple reason. I would like the Minister of State for Finance to listen. When a Russian farmer raises a litter of piglets in the middle of winter and it is 40 degrees below zero—and it gets that cold in western Canada—the Russian farmer will not leave his mama and run out to the hog barn and lie with the sow to help save a couple of extra newborn pigs to sell the next summer, because they are the state's pigs. In a private economy the individual farmer has pride because he knows that if he saves a couple of piglets, he will have extra income the next summer. That is a simple lesson, but I do not know whether our two socialist parties will ever learn it. It is a lesson that applies in the small farming industry and the small business industry and it applies to the home owner who takes pride in his dwelling.

The hon. member for Peterborough read letters from young constituents of his who are having trouble hanging on to their homes. The same applies to them. They want to own their homes. They want to have pride in themselves. They want to be part of the country and to be productive, yet this government prevents that by some of the crazy things it does. I think the only election promise hon. members opposite could have fulfilled would have been a promise to do everything possible to throw a monkey wrench into the operation of the country in order to screw up the economy. That is the promise hon. members opposite are fulfilling. In fact, if they had promised that, I do not think they could be doing as good a job as they are doing, as evidenced by what we heard in the budget the other night.

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There are many more items to talk about in the budget. We heard on budget night that there would be some assistance to farmers through the Farm Credit Corporation. An additional \$45 million will be made available to assist farmers in meeting interest costs when they have financial problems. That is a