

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

Paper. It was not given much publicity, but what did it ask? It asked how many elevators in Saskatchewan have no elevator agent. The answer was 99. Also, how many elevators in Alberta have no elevator agent? The answer was 71. I forget the number without agents in Manitoba, but it was a like number. Why have they no elevator agents? I will tell you. If you own an elevator in western Canada, you own a gold mine: you get a cent per month per bushel for storage and for the handling charges, according to the economic experts, the elevator should receive up to 24 cents a bushel per year.

Now the government lets the wheat stay there for five years, pays the elevator owners and tells the farmers, "We cannot do anything for you." Do you want to do that with hogs? After all, when hogs reach 200 pounds they must move from the farm to market if they are to be competitive and sell at a proper price. And so it is with cattle. You cannot store cattle or hogs in bins for five years; they get pretty smelly in time. That is something the minister has not taken into consideration in this bill.

● (8:50 p.m.)

The next recommendation is:

Immediate arrangements for a study of Canadian wheat pricing to be made by an outstanding, unbiased, international authority on the subject, as a basis for future policy decisions—

I agree with the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) who talked about the funny little statement made by the Minister without Portfolio. I do not think the minister would have given a lecture like that when he was dean of the law school. There are 44 exporting and importing countries. Canada should take the initiative. We were the first of the wheat exporting nations in the world. We are now sixth. Ask the Minister of Agriculture how we got in that position. Don't blame the lost of market for the surplus. Blame the government and the cabinet for their inaction and lack of leadership. The ministers will not come into the House for the question period. When they are in the House, they make jokes. In answer to a serious question on unemployment, the Prime Minister asked somebody if he was still beating his wife! It is recorded in *Hansard*. That is the frivolous kind of nonsense the opposition has to put up with.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Woolliams.]

Mr. Woolliams: The next recommendation is:

Provision for a greatly expanded market research and development program.

Let us pay people a commission for selling wheat. When you hand out a few dollars you get some action. I am a free enterpriser. I find there are a few in the Liberal ranks, when I have coffee with them—but not when they are voting in the House. The answer is, give somebody a buck and they will sell our wheat. If the government would get off its so-and-so it would sell wheat and we would not have the trouble we now have.

The farmers do not want a handout. They are independent. What's \$100 million? This program will not apply to 50 per cent of the farmers in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. In this wheat belt 50 per cent of the wheat is grown. How do you diversify in the gumbo area of Regina? The minister knows about that. As soon as it rains, the cattle will be over their hocks in mud you cannot diversify. The government wants to set up a board similar to the Wheat Board to market every other commodity. No wonder I stand in my place and speak as sharply and as firmly as I do. Somebody must.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I regret I have to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): There is no unanimous consent. The hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin).

Mr. Hogarth: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I offer my consent to the hon. member continuing, solely to see how much more bull he can get into his speech about cows!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: That was a very rude remark by the member. I will let it rest there. I thought he had more dignity, but maybe the dignity came out of something else. I will not go into that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The hon. member for Portneuf.