

more economical than buying it in a store, whether it is sliced, wrapped or otherwise.

We should concern ourselves with protein production. We have built up a tremendous feeding industry in the poultry, hog and cattle business. The minister in charge of the wheat board has deliberately raised the price of feed grain, whether it is to the Quebec farmer feeding hogs, the maritime farmer feeding poultry or the western farmer feeding cattle. By deliberately raising the price of feed grains, he has placed the livestock industry in jeopardy. If the government wants to do something meaningful, it should subsidize the cost of feed grains within Canada for the livestock industry. The livestock industry includes the feeding of hogs, poultry and cattle. As I said, Canadians are consumers of protein. They are not huge consumers of starchy foods. The policy in which the minister is engaged is wrong. It should be changed. There is no mention of such a change in the Speech from the Throne.

Recently, there has been a great deal of concern over the huge number of cattle coming into Canada from the United States. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture both made snide remarks this week about this subject. They said "We wanted to put cattle into the marketing bill, but you people over there did not let us." If Bill C-176 had included cattle, that would not have stopped American cattle coming into this country. It would not have helped the present situation one bit. They may be fooling themselves and a few of their Liberal friends across the country with that idle remark, but they are not facing the truth. One becomes used to them not facing the truth in this area.

● (1230)

I read the speech of the hon. member from the New Democratic Party. He talked about the huge profits various companies across Canada have made in the past year. I am not afraid of the word "profit". I like to make a profit—it is the only way I can feed my family and buy them the things they want. But I do not think it is fair to talk in terms of the percentage increase in profits, because if I make a dollar today and two dollars tomorrow my increase will be 100 per cent. And that is what they have ignored when talking in terms of percentage increases. Then again, they have failed to take into consideration the growth in demand for a given product.

The agriculture industry faced a very troublesome year in 1973. This was a year which had all the potential to be one of the great years but it really did not fulfill this expectation; it ended up in chaos. Government spokesman said it was not their fault—that it was the fault of President Nixon in the United States. The minister said the price of wheat might go up, that farmers might expect to get more for it. This has turned out not to be the case; the price of grain is going down. I notice the hon. gentleman smiling. He attempts to blame the railway strike, or the U.S. government—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Or snow.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Or snow. It is always something like that. But the railway strike should never have occurred. The men should have been given the increase they wanted. There was no real reason for that strike.

The Address—Mr. J. H. Horner

They wanted to prove, I suppose, that they could be tough with the workers. Well, it did not work out for Heath and it did not work out for the government. At all events, there was a prospect of a great year for agriculture, but it turned out not to be so because of government intervention at one time and the failure of government to intervene at another when it should. I think the farmers have learned a lesson not to rely on governments but to rely on their own initiative if governments will allow them to do so.

Another subject I want to talk about is energy. There is a great deal of talk across Canada about it. The speech from the throne presented to the Alberta legislature did not really deal with the question of how expensive energy should be. In its own report, this government said the cost of all forms of energy should be the equivalent of the cost of electricity, and eventually that will be the level. All Canadians should be warned that they cannot continue to expect oil to come from Alberta, or any other part of the country, if a price is fixed which bears no relationship to the world price. Looking at our conventional oil reserves, we find there is only ten or twelve years supply left. Thus, the future really depends on a supply from the tar sands.

Production from the tar sands means a labour intensive industry—it really amounts to mining the sands, and much labour is necessary before oil is produced from them. The cost of labour and materials goes up every year. Inflation has a tremendous effect upon an operation of this kind and the price of oil is, therefore, bound to move up whether we like it or not if these tar sands are to be developed. It is easy to ask where the tar sands have been all this time. The tar sands were first discovered in 1775 and the first survey was carried out in 1875. We are only now talking about developing them, 200 years after their discovery. Naturally, we wish to encourage the development of the tar sands but if we are limited by the short term concept that eastern Canada, or the whole of Canada, for that matter, must be supplied with oil at a price far cheaper than the world price, our efforts to do so will be brought to nothing. Canadians should be well aware that the price will have to fluctuate with the world price if the essential reserves in northern Alberta are to be developed.

The other subject on which I should like to speak briefly is the subject of inflation. Much was made of it in the Speech from the Throne. I myself do not believe in the widely held concept that there is any solution in wage and price controls. They might have worked at one time, when the United States was imposing wage and price controls, but with the United States economy moving toward a greater volume of supply, and in the absence of controls there, I do not believe controls are any answer in Canada. But how is it possible to eliminate the western feeling of alienation when the only controls this government imposes are controls on wheat, controls on feed grain and controls on oil? It seems odd that all the controls the government is interested in imposing should be controls on products coming from western Canada. It may be a case of selective controls, as the Prime Minister suggested the other day. They are selective, all right. They are hurting western Canada, and westerners are very much aware of that fact. The Speech from the Throne makes no mention of any move to eliminate those controls.