

**Mr. Pepin:** Not right now, please. This afternoon an hon. member during the question period asked what the government plans were in the light of the fact that the five bushel quota would not be reached. I do not know why such questions are asked and repeated. Mr. McNamara, the Chief Commissioner of the Wheat Board, has told the Standing Committee on Agriculture—and I have repeated his remarks in this house—that he is very hopeful that the five bushel quota will be reached. What better opinion do hon. members want? Why do they therefore anticipate that the quota will not be reached? Why create tragedies that do not exist?

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask the minister a question, Mr. Speaker. Is he sure the five bushel quota will be reached? Will he undertake to keep the delivery season open until every delivery point has accepted the full five bushel quota?

**Mr. Pepin:** There we go again. The hon. member evidently does not believe the quota will be reached. Why do we not wait until we see what is to happen before crying wolf?

**Mr. Gleave:** We have been doing that all year.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** What about foreseeing events?

**Mr. Pepin:** That is a question of philosophy. You cannot have it all ways. One day some hon. member in this house says that the price of beef is too low for the farmer to benefit from his work. The next day an opposition member says it is too high for the housewife. One day we hear that the price of lumber is too high and is hurting Canadian construction. The next day we hear that reducing prices for lumber will be bad for our exports. You cannot have it both ways. I know it is difficult for hon. members to be in opposition to the government. I have never had that advantage of disadvantage of sitting on the opposite side. I know that hon. members must ask questions. Need I remind the opposition that they cannot have it all ways; that they cannot advise something one day and the contrary another.

Look at the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. A few months ago he and his colleagues were saying, "Respect the I.G.A." Now he is saying, "Scrap it." You cannot do both things at the same time. One day hon. members of that group protest that we are not underselling someone else. The next day they talk about abiding by agreements.

*Alleged Failure to Aid Western Farmers*

Today, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar compliments us on the appointment of Mr. Gibbings. Tomorrow he will condemn us for taking his advice. You just cannot make those kinds of statements and get away with it.

**Mr. Gleave:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not mind the minister quoting me so long as he does it correctly. I said that the appointment of Mr. Gibbings was a good appointment, but the effectiveness of the Wheat Board will depend on the policies of the government.

**Mr. Pepin:** And the policy of the government in turn will depend on the good counsel it receives from its advisers.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** And will the minister blame the experts and advisers when they are wrong?

**Mr. Pepin:** No. We shall assume the blame ourselves. Not assuming responsibilities is one of three traditions of the C.C.F. that we have not adopted.

How serious is the marketing situation, Mr. Speaker. It might be worth looking at the facts. World trade has dropped by 11 per cent within the last year. Last year's trade, in turn, was 17 per cent below the level of the 1966-67 trading year. These are facts. Further figures show that in the 1966-67 crop year there was a potential for trading 2,300 million bushels. In 1967-68 that potential existed for 1.9 billion bushels. The potential for the 1968-69 crop is for 1.7 billion bushels. We see here a reduction at the world level of 600 million bushels over a period of three years in trade possibilities.

● (9:50 p.m.)

That is quite a normal situation. However undesirable this normality may be, it is a fact of life and Canada among other countries will suffer as a result of the existing world situation in the wheat trade. It would be unbelievable that Canada alone should escape from the consequences of that situation. I could go on giving many other facts of life dealing with this subject. United States exports in the current crop year are estimated to be 535 million bushels. This is over 200 million bushels below earlier predictions, and 250 million bushels less than the previous five years average.

I am not trying to say that our Canadian situation is not a difficult one. I am just trying to say this is not solely a Canadian difficulty. It is a difficult world situation. I