

*Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act*

**Mr. Mazankowski:**—in the event they have the opportunity to speak on this motion and say what they wanted to say originally. Then we will allow it to come to a vote. But we have Hon. Members who want to speak and the Official Opposition, or the NDP, will not deny the Hon. Members on this side the right to speak and the right to be heard on behalf of the people, the farmers of western Canada, and all of Canada. The farming industry is an important industry. It is in dire straits. It is in serious difficulty. This is the kind of debate that should be held in this institution. That is what we are trying to do.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Questions and comments.

**Mr. Riis:** I do not have a question or comment. What I want to suggest to the House Leader for the Government is, in fact, that the farmers of this country do not want to hear a lot of rhetoric. They want to see some action. What we said is, let us have some action in this House of Commons rather than have farmers sitting listening to hour after hour of Tories getting up and filibustering the Bill that is before the House which is designed to help the grain farmers across the country. We are saying, let us get on and handle this Bill as expeditiously as possible. I cannot believe that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) has stood here and said he wants to talk this Bill out. He is going to vote against taking action on this Bill.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You are trying to deny freedom of speech.

**Mr. Riis:** I want to say very clearly that we are very concerned about the plight of the family farm. We see family farms being replaced by agri-business and corporate agriculture right across Canada. We see an opportunity today to take some action and do what we can in the House of Commons to deal with this. Not long ago the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) asked us to do whatever we could to assist him. What did the Minister ask us to do?

● (1250)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You don't know what you are talking about.

**Mr. Riis:** The Government House Leader should listen carefully so that he understands how this place works.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am listening.

**Mr. Riis:** A request was made of the opposition Parties to pass the Bill before us as quickly as possible. We were asked whether we would co-operate with the Government. At that time we said: "You bet we will". We also said that if the Bill helps Canadian farmers and provides support for farm families, we would support it and that we would do whatever we could. As a matter of fact, we said that we would pass it with the absolute minimum of speakers. The Government House Leader can sit there and laugh because he was not the House Leader at that time.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am laughing at you.

**Mr. Riis:** The request was for our co-operation. We said that we would co-operate with the Government. We want to help family farms and grain producers. Assuming that if it was important to pass it in June, it would be even more important to pass it quickly today, we said that we should get the Bill into committee so that it could be dealt with as quickly as possible, get it back for third reading, and get on with other business of the country.

Perhaps the Deputy Prime Minister noticed what the polls indicated across the country today. The people of Canada have lost confidence in the Government. They have lost confidence in the leadership of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). They have lost confidence in the Progressive Conservative Party. Quite frankly, in every region of the country the Conservatives do not have the support of the majority of citizens. I cannot believe that the Deputy Prime Minister and Government House Leader stood in his place today and said: "We are going to stop the movement of this Bill".

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I did not say that at all.

**Mr. Riis:** He said that they wanted to slow down the movement of this Bill, that they wanted to keep the people talking but not to provide action. We are saying that members of the opposition Parties want action. We want to move the Bill forward as quickly as possible.

**Mr. McDermid:** What a phoney.

**Mr. Riis:** The Hon. Member should reconsider the word "phoney". I believe it is unparliamentary. Presumably he will have an opportunity to make his speech. I guess they now want to prolong the debate on this motion.

I say to the Deputy Prime Minister and to the Minister of State for Canadian Wheat Board that if the request for speedy passage was valid in June of this year, surely to goodness the same request is valid today. We want to co-operate. We want to get on with other business of the House. We have other legislation in line. We have Bills which are awaiting passage.

Why is it that government Members want to filibuster and prolong debate unnecessarily—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Could I ask the Hon. Member to conclude his comment?

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I forgot that it was a comment; I thought I was on debate. Rather than a comment, perhaps I will direct a simple question to the Government House Leader. They have the co-operation of the opposition Parties to deal expeditiously with the Bill. Knowing all the legislation which is awaiting passage, knowing the state of affairs in the country, and knowing what the people of Canada through today's polls think of them, why will they not co-operate with the opposition Parties when they say: "Let's deal with it now. Let's get it into committee where it can be properly dealt with, not at this stage where it is being debated in principle only"?