

Prairie Grain Stabilization Act

equipment. This is a perfect example of the cost factor of labour having no bearing whatever. I suggest to you that unless the western farmer is able to get more cash, the eastern worker will continue to suffer. It was interesting to note that many of the Conservative opposition members who come from the west voted against this amendment.

An hon. Member: Shame.

Mr. Blackburn: I find that rather difficult to understand. Perhaps it is my naïveté as a very new member in this House, but it seems to me that every member of this House from a western constituency should have voted for this amendment. After all, the western farmers, the grain producers, have been suffering from a depression for the past two years, and this affects my constituency. The problem is that in a country the size of Canada, it is very difficult for the people in factories and for the farmers on the prairies to realize the interdependence and the relationship between the two. I hope that if my few brief remarks do nothing else, they will at least prove that there is a substantial interdependence. There has to be money to purchase the goods, and if the goods are purchased, in Brantford in this case, we will be able to put people back to work.

I should like to state that one of the main reasons Brantford voted NDP in the last federal election was the depressed state of the farm implement business. Yet, it seems to me that the government as yet has not recognized this. They still cannot understand that unless we can put people back to work—and this amendment would help put people back to work in the east as well as assist the western farmer—that unless we resolve this real problem of unemployment, this winter will prove disastrous. I should like to suggest that every possible attempt be made to put as much cash as possible in the pockets of the western grain producers as quickly as possible so that the demand for farm implements in eastern Canada, and specifically in the city of Brantford, will go up. Of course, then we will put people back to work and the situation in my community will be much improved. On a per capita basis, Brantford has an extremely high welfare rate. We have conflicts within the community; we have frustrations and we have very deep rooted social problems, most of which stem from our depressed economic position.

• (5:20 p.m.)

I should like to urge once again in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that this situation be rectified so that if at all possible the economic interdependence between the west and the east will be dramatically brought home to the people, to the factory workers and to the farmers on the Prairies.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the hon. gentleman a question before he resumes his seat?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member knows that he can ask a question only if he gets consent from the hon. member. The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member if he is of the opinion that the effect of this

amendment would be to allow the automobile workers in this area and those connected with the farm machinery industry to continue to operate on the strength of the money that will be added to the income of the western farmer?

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, I would agree entirely with that question; it certainly would improve the economic situation.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, in view of the very great interest that is being shown by members on the other side of the House in Bill C-244 and also because of the very great importance of this bill to western farmers, I now wish to move under Standing Order 6 (5) (a):

that the House agree to sit after six o'clock to continue consideration of the report stage of Bill C-244.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Hon. members have heard the motion just proposed by the hon. Minister, which corresponds to the provisions of Standing Order 6 (5) (a). Before putting the motion, the Chair will follow the practice that has been used in the past for such motions and read Standing Order 6 (5) (b) concerning the voting upon this question:

When Mr. Speaker puts the question on such motion, he shall ask those members who object to rise in their places. If ten or more members then rise, the motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn, otherwise, the motion shall have been adopted.

[Translation]

I have to suggest to the hon. member that before the motion is put, hon. members who are opposed to it must rise, and if ten members or more rise, automatically, the motion is deemed to be withdrawn; otherwise, it is passed.

[English]

Hon. members have heard the motion.

And more than ten members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): According to the same Standing Order, more than ten members having risen, the motion is deemed to have been withdrawn.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for letting me have the floor at the report stage on Bill C-244, entitled "An Act respecting the stabilization of prairie grain sale proceeds and to repeal or amend certain related statutes."

In this bill, Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I should like hon. members to give the hon. member for Lotbinière the opportunity to proceed with his remarks. Private talks may be carried on outside the House.

Mr. Fortin: I am pleased to see, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members on the other side are once again being reasonable.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the basic problem which is raised by Bill C-244. First, part of the recommendation is on a certain amount. Here is an excerpt of this recommendation:

—of one hundred million dollars to actual producers resident in