

this debate what this government had done up to now to provide for the supplies needed by our Quebec producers.

As I said earlier, in spite of the longshoremen's strike we all deplore, contrarily to the members of the opposition, we do not reprove this strike but we regret it.

I deemed it my duty to participate in this debate because my constituency is adjacent to the "belle province", and not to refute the arguments from opposition members, not to bring upon myself political publicity like the hon. members for Joliette and Bellechasse (Mr. La Salle and Mr. Lambert) but to back up my Liberal colleagues from Quebec for their constant dedication for their farmers.

Since I represent myself a country riding, I understand very well the anguish and the unrest which the Quebec producers are experiencing presently. During all this debate, nothing has been suggested by the opposition as a solution to this sad situation, except maybe by the hon. member for Bellechasse. All the others have kept criticizing.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues on the government side made a positive contribution to this debate. First the hon. member for Shefford, I believe.

An hon. Member: No, not Shefford.

Mr. Ethier: I can have a word or two about the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau). He said in his speech that the situation could have been settled a week ago, ten days ago. It could have been solved in one day. Of course, when they think of mingling in a labour dispute. We, on the liberal side, respect the bargaining process. We still believe in negotiated agreements. I simply wish to state briefly to join those among us, from either side, who urge that we speak together and that our voice be heard by longshoremen, so that they make an exception in view of the present hardship to Quebec farmers and that they open picket lines, so that farmers get their supplies.

In view of the late hour, I shall conclude by urging members and Quebec producers themselves to trust the minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). I urge you to compare the improvement in agriculture since the hon. Eugene Whelan took over this portfolio two years ago. I am certain that if we give him our confidence, the situation will improve, hopefully without interfering in a labour dispute.

Feed Grain

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to take the time of the House now, but I shall take only one minute. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to inform the House that today, April 17, 1975, at 3.30 a.m., is the birthday of the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Duquet). I shall not mention his age today, but on behalf of all members of this House, I wish him a Happy Birthday.

● (0330)

[*English*]

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, before this debate comes to an end may I, on behalf of all my colleagues in this chamber, thank the officers of the House, the interpreters, the *Hansard* reporters, the heads of the page staff, and the protective staff who have worked so diligently and remained with us through this long and important debate.

May I call it 3.30 a.m. Mr. Speaker? Thank you and good morning.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, as it is very late, I would like to join my colleagues of the opposition in thanking sincerely all the people who contributed to the efforts made to explain to the Canadian people the present problems in Quebec and particularly in our three main ports. I thank those who are present and even those who are not. I am sure that tomorrow they will notice that some of their colleagues spent the night not at doing nothing, but at discussing a serious problem, which concerns the Westerners who spoke tonight as much as the Easterners who did the same. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we can say that tonight there were no Westerners and no Easterners but Canadians, members of Parliament who are Canadians, who are truly Canadian and wanted to discuss the problems, be they from Quebec, from Ontario, from the East or from the West. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the interests of the people that we represent must always come first in this House and I believe that we must put aside all party politics and try to solve their problems.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I believe that those who contributed to the printing of the *Hansard* and who helped us to express ourselves truly deserve sincere congratulations.

[*English*]

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, may I apologize for my raspy voice which I have had since last night. I do suggest that it is regrettable that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has not been able to rise in the House and present to us some kind of solution to the problem that was brought before the House tonight. I regret that very much.