

into summerfallow. A payment of \$6 an acre will not begin to compensate the farmers.

The members of this House should not be under the impression that there is no cost involved when putting land into summerfallow or perennial forage crops. It costs money to buy forage seed and to put the land into forage crops. These amounts of \$6 and \$10 will barely, if at all, cover the cost of summerfallow and putting land into perennial forage crops. Where is the compensation for the loss of income arising from the fact the farmer is not able to grow and deliver wheat to the Wheat Board? There is no compensation for that at all. This is a very small sop to throw the farmers of western Canada who have been betrayed by this government on whose promises the farmers depended. They now find that those promises are completely worthless.

We cannot discuss this matter at length, Mr. Speaker, because we are on motions, but I submit to Your Honour and the government that an early opportunity should be provided during which this whole matter can be debated in the House. An opportunity should be given for the minister to be more specific about some of the details which we cannot get during the question period. I hope an opportunity will be provided next week so we can have a full debate on this question.

I am convinced that the wheat producers of western Canada and the people of the prairie provinces in particular will be disappointed and disgusted at this "Minnie" mouse that has been brought forth by the government after a long labour.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the government to try and find a solution to the intricate problem facing wheat producers should not make us lose sight of certain basic principles which are to be preserved.

Can we allow for immediate application of a solution such as the one proposed by the minister in his statement, and I quote:

A sharp reduction in wheat stocks will greatly enhance the continuing effort to strengthen international wheat prices.

In working towards an increase in prices, are we not contributing to create inflation which the government has tried to combat by all possible means in the last few months? On the one hand, we are trying to prevent increases in salaries and prices and, on the other hand, we adopt a measure designed to increase prices.

Copper Market and Price

If Providence has provided us with a great abundance of consumer goods, man should benefit by it.

And if we are enjoying abundance, we should normally let the greatest possible number of people profit thereof, beginning with Canadians. It is, in my opinion, a basic humanitarian principle.

The proposed solution could at the most temporarily encourage a certain number of producers, but as pointed out by the previous speakers, it does not solve that thorny problem.

Therefore, the government should consider the solutions which we have always advocated, that is the creation of new means of distribution and if necessary, the reduction rather than an increase of prices, in order to encourage the human being, which should be the object of every logical policy.

• (11:30 a.m.)

[English]

INDUSTRY

COPPER—DOMESTIC MARKET SUPPLY LEVEL AND PRICE

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that after consultation with the Prices and Incomes Commission, I have informed the copper and copper concentrate producers, the secondary materials handlers and the copper fabricators, that as of March 1 the supply of copper into the domestic market will be assured at a level of 23,500 tons per month at a price of 59 cents per pound. This price, the lowest in the world, is 7 cents less than the 66 cents per pound price announced by the producers on January 1. It compares with the United States effective price of 69 cents per pound Canadian and the London Metals Exchange price of 80 cents per pound Canadian. This is a positive step in the direction of containing inflationary pressures in our economy.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the secondary materials handlers have been advised that our export of copper scrap will be limited to the level of exports during the last six months of 1969. This level is 4,000 tons per month or 20 per cent less than the 1969 average.

In order to provide for a more equitable distribution between producers of the supply requirement of 23,500 tons per month, all