

*Business of Supply*

grain and we had to have special quotas. But in the last 20 years I do not remember a situation in which farmers had not delivered any grain beyond the initial quotas by the middle of January. It is over six months since we made our last delivery, and anyone who can live on the income derived from 400 bushels at \$1.20 a bushel is a miracle worker. And what is our minister doing? He is staggering sales in order to make things nice and comfortable for a few men at the Lakehead and because he is worried that a few men, who will receive unemployment insurance anyway, may be laid off. He could not care less about the farmer who will have to make his payments at the end of December and who must now pay 9½ per cent interest on loans he formerly obtained at a 5 per cent rate.

He could not care less about the men who are going out of business but he does want an efficient system of grain handling. It all looks very good on paper. Nowadays it is hard to find anyone who goes into town especially on Saturday night and stays longer than is absolutely necessary. At one time we were worried about our villages; but now we should be worried about our towns because they are suffering also. You can no longer depend on a businessman being there when you need him and you can no longer expect the machinery dealer to be in business. Our costs of production are high enough but now we shall have to travel 50 or 60 miles in order to get a machine repaired at prices which the Barber Commission called outrageous.

Seven years ago I with members of the Liberal party and of the NDP sat on a committee of this House which looked into this matter. The Committee came to the conclusion now reached by the Barber Commission. It has taken seven years for this miserable government to come to that conclusion. And what is it doing? The Government is setting up another committee to see what is to be done. What must we do to convince this government that we now have to pay 9½ per cent interest on loans for machinery that is \$2,500 overpriced? No one in Britain, France or anywhere else pays more for farm machinery than we in Canada but this government still sets up another commission. Are we supposed to sit here while the children go unattended and communities fall apart? In the meantime the minister sets up commission after commission. I have pleaded with the government before. It is not only members in my party who have been pleading with the government

but I also hear expressions of concern from the government side. This is what disturbs me.

• (3:30 p.m.)

When the Prime Minister visited western Canada all he could utter was, why should I sell your wheat? I say to the Prime Minister that we want to live in Canada.

There was a four page report in the *Toronto Star* on the subject of separatism in western Canada. It is not separatism that we want. We are as good Canadians as will be found anywhere in Canada. We have taken our lumps in the past but do not compare us to beggars.

Much of the beneficial results of the legislation on our books is defeated by other governmental actions. We have regional development areas yet the banks in my area are charging the same rates as are being charged in Toronto. The Prime Minister stated that Toronto and the province of Ontario are contributing to inflation. I ask the Minister without Portfolio whether he thinks Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba are contributing to inflation. I dare him to make that statement. He knows that is not the case.

I intend to leave one thought with the government today because over the many years that I have been here I have found that the Liberal government can only absorb one idea at a time. I am not sure they will act but I think they can comprehend one idea. What I intend to say may not be received too well by some of the elevator companies. However my concern is for the farmer and his family who have for many years struggled, worked and manipulated in order to make a go of it. The minister has expressed himself to be somewhat in favour of this idea. The fact that the government intends to spend \$71 million this year does not make any sense to me. It may be the basis for a very good speech indicating what the government is doing for the farmer but it does not make sense for the elevator companies to have this money in order to keep operating. It is not the elevator companies that are in difficulty but the farmers.

I am going to table a report which was provided by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is also another report by Joe Caplan. I want to incorporate these reports as part of my remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps this might be a good point to interrupt the hon. member and refer him to his requests submitted to the House in the course of his speech