

Speech from the Throne

decreased. It is because his credibility has decreased. He cannot fool all the people all the time.

I was a member of the same committee as the mover of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. We were concerned about some of the quotas that would be lost. He said that if you do not produce and ship enough cream, 420 pounds a year, you cannot get a subsidy. It is understandable that some people believe the Liberal policy is to drive the small farmer off the land.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Korchinski: What has happened now? Just before the election, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) has come forward and said "Look what we are going to do." We were previously told that there was no point in trying to pay a subsidy because it was administratively impossible. We were told that there would be so much bookwork the computer would be jammed. Now, as election time approaches, we find that the same computer has had this information all these years. Now, the information is being handed out. There are 30,000 producers affected in the three prairie provinces. Do you think these people will forget? No just society there, Mr. Speaker. But the Liberals think they can fool the people. In no way can you expect these people to accept such treatment. Do you think they want to live one year in four?

• (1530)

What about the hog situation? Lo and behold, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) comes along. He is going to make a big statement. Oh, he says, we are coming to the rescue of the hog producers. He indicated that the government was at least giving consideration to the question because of the depressed prices. Time and time again questions on this subject have been raised in the House. There are a lot of people in the west who sell to the auction market. Who will get the payment? The operator of the auction, because these people do not have the slips which indicate the type and grade of the hogs they ship. A man may have the best hogs, but he is not going to get anything. What happened? Prices went down. There are a lot of people in the weanling business. They sell to the people who finish off the hogs. Because prices were low, what kind of price did they get? They had to take a lower price because the man who finished them off said, look, I cannot pay you any more, you have to take less. It was reasonable that he should pay less. But now, come election time, they up the price to the one who finishes but leave the other guy sitting high and dry. They are not going to do anything for him. There is not much justice there. Yet it is the breeders who produce the weanlings and breed the sows who take the biggest risk. It is in the first six or eight weeks that the biggest losses occur. They would have received maybe two dollars more for their hogs, but, instead, they sold them for \$5 or \$6 a hog. There is not much justice there.

Then, of course, Mr. Speaker, you know, along comes the stabilization program, the stabilization program with regard to which the minister has said, oh well, it was the opposition who delayed it. Now, Mr. Speaker, you know that if the minister was so sure that it was the right type of program he would not have been in difficulty. Oh yes, the bill might have taken a little longer but, after all, Bill C-176 did go through. The government did have its

[Mr. Korchinski.]

majority and they did ram it through whether it was acceptable or not to the opposition, whether it will damage total production in the end or not. They did ram it through, but in this case the minister said, oh well, we could not do anything because it meant putting up money. Now, in this case, it was a transitional payment which was involved. You know, Mr. Speaker, there is a definition of transitional payment. It is money that governments pay to voters prior to the change-over of the government. It is a transitional payment which was involved. In this case it was a bit too early, a bit too soon.

Of course, there is no mention of it in the Speech from the Throne, but as we know some things are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne which are never put into effect and others which are not mentioned are carried out. So you do not know where you are with this government. The minister has indicated in all his speeches in the west that he will be back. I hope he will. I hope he can understand that in the wintertime farmers do a lot of mathematics, a lot of book work. Their pencils are sharp and they are pretty sharp, too; they can figure out where they are getting the short end of the stick. They are not going to be fooled this time.

During the recess an announcement was made and, of course, every western paper got a little article submitted by none other than the Minister of Justice in charge of the Wheat Board (Mr. Lang) similar to the announcement he made through a little slip from the Wheat Board recently that they were going to pay out so much money. But this was the greatest break-through in his entire career. He wanted the people to believe that he was the one who had the two-price system idea and sold it to the cabinet. I wonder what claim to fame the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) has. It was while he was in charge of the Wheat Board that the announcement of \$1.95 for domestic wheat was made. Apparently he had sold somebody on something. We thought then he was coming up with an acreage payment or a two-price system.

What did we find? It is a re-heated, warmed-up acreage payment. Lo and behold, after all this time, after all this fanfare, we find out in the Speech from the Throne that it is not to be a two-price system, it is to be an acreage payment. This is interesting. An acreage payment is not a break-through because since 1959 we have had an acreage payment. Payments went out, and farmers in those days were satisfied that they were in lieu of the two-price system. But let us watch this drama unfold. It is full of intrigue. The minister goes to Assiniboia in a by-election and says to the electors: If you elect a Liberal candidate you will get the two-price system because he will work for it. This is the first inkling we had that he was actually working on something and wanted to announce it. But come on boys, come on. That is how we used to call horses with a little pan of oats. That is how we lured them into a barn.

Mr. Lang: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I simply want to tell the hon. member that if he is referring to what I said he should be as accurate as possible. What I told the electors in Assiniboia was that if they sent a Liberal member to the House of Commons the two-price system would be a big step closer.