

*The Address—Mr. Burton*

daylight passenger train service on the C.P.R. main line. However, the C.P.R. point of view prevailed and the existing daylight passenger service was cancelled. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I have almost given up hope of any improvement by the C.P.R. in dealing with people and passenger traffic as long as this huge corporation is in the hands of owners who place the profit motive above all other considerations. Fortunately for Regina, the C.N.R. does have a railiner connection with Saskatoon where passengers may transfer to the C.N.R. main line. This, however, involves considerable extra travel to and from eastern points. I would urge the C.N.R. to overcome this problem by giving consideration to the establishment of a railiner service to Melville on the C.N.R. main line and other eastern Saskatchewan points. In addition to serving local traffic needs, such a service could be tied in with the trans-continental passenger train service. It should be possible to provide a sleeping car service originating at Melville which would enable passengers from Regina and eastern Saskatchewan points to retrain at Melville with comfort and convenience.

The absence of a C.B.C. television station in Saskatchewan is regretted by many people in our province. Saskatchewan people see only those programs which can be arranged through affiliated stations. I believe Saskatchewan is the only province without a CBC-TV outlet. A comparison of programs shows that Saskatchewan people cannot see many programs viewed in other parts of Canada. In spite of this, C.B.C. programming is rated very high among many Saskatchewan people. The C.B.C. is now preparing to instal television facilities in some remote areas of Canada. To this I have no objection. All I ask is that Saskatchewan have one C.B.C. station.

There are, of course, some items in the Speech from the Throne which I welcome. The long awaited federal co-operatives act will be welcomed by most people in Regina East. This act, which has been just around the corner for so many years, will enable co-operatives to play a more adequate role in the national economy. I trust that the promise of such legislation in this session will not meet the same fate as similar promises for such an act on numerous occasions in the past.

Similarly, I welcome the proposal to increase the cash advances available to grain farmers. The amendments proposed to the

Farm Improvement Loans Act and the Farm Credit Act will at least make this legislation operative again after the Liberal government allowed it to fall into disuse earlier this year. Judging from the wording of the resolutions now on the order paper, I may, however, have some reservations about the specific terms of the amendments.

Other than the cash advance proposal there was nothing in the Speech from the Throne to indicate that the government intended to act with respect to the serious problems facing the wheat economy. This is very disappointing to those people affected.

The executive of the Saskatchewan New Democratic party wired the Prime Minister urging that the agriculture committee of the House of Commons hold hearings on the prairies immediately in order to obtain a full picture of the present situation. The executive also urged the formation of a special sales commission with wheat board officials plus farm representatives to promote sales. I certainly commend this proposal for consideration and would urge that it be followed by action very soon.

Furthermore, it is to be regretted that the Speech from the Throne suggested no approach to the broader and long run problems facing people engaged in agriculture. It was my concern in this regard which prompted me to inquire a few days ago about the report of the special task force on agricultural policy. Certainly, it is to be hoped that the task force will set out adequate guide lines and that the government will act on its recommendations promptly. True, the Prime Minister made some reference to agriculture in his address which at least recognized the seriousness of problems facing prairie agriculture. However, if the only proposal the Prime Minister can make to deal with longer range problems is the national grains council, with all the questions this raises, then I am afraid we are not making much progress.

• (8:30 p.m.)

My colleague, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave), has already outlined the situation facing farmers in western Canada much better than I can, and I join with him in his plea for sound agricultural policies. In my view, several factors demand the urgent attention of the federal government.

First, there is the difficult marketing situation, especially with respect to export markets. These problems demand government