

## Grain

the Wheat Board to support the board in actions it deems appropriate. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has indicated he supported the board throughout the trying times we have faced. It is fair to say that never before has a government been as helpful to the board as this government, has been in these adverse conditions.

• (10:30 p.m.)

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce mentioned steps which have been taken to ameliorate the situation, and I will not repeat them. He spoke about doubling cash advances, providing for additional money to be used for drying—

**Mr. Horner:** Increasing interest rates.

**Mr. Olson:** —allowing for tax relief on stationary grain dryers and changes in the income tax regulations to allow for accelerated depreciation of certain equipment. In addition, the government made provision for the waiving of certain sections of the labour code to permit existing drying facilities to be used to full advantage. Never before in Canadian history has a government taken so many steps in so short a period in order to be helpful to its farmers. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was instrumental in having the government take these steps and he ought to be applauded.

**Mr. Horner:** He was instrumental in not having grain moved fast enough.

**Mr. Olson:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce said that 23 per cent more grain was loaded on board ships in the port of Vancouver at the end of this year than in the corresponding period last year. That performance is not perfect, but we are improving. Some of our problems stem from the fact that there has been an unanticipated increase in sales.

**Mr. Horner:** No.

**Mr. Olson:** The hon. member says, no. I suppose none are so deaf as those who will not hear.

In supporting this motion it seems to me hon. members of the opposition are seeking partisan political advantage and headlines, which will do much damage to our grain industry. Hon. members of the opposition not long ago spoke about harvesting conditions in western Canada and said that much grain in western Canada will never be harvested.

What happened? Well, over 95 per cent of the grain was harvested. I do not say it was harvested in ideal weather conditions, but nevertheless it was harvested. All the noise hon. members of the opposition made that Canada would have insufficient grain to sell, and so on, reached the ears of our overseas customers and much damage was done. We had to do a great deal of work to repair that damage for which hon. members of the opposition were responsible.

The motion says:

I ask leave...to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the virtual bottleneck and paralysis—

**Mr. Horner:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Agriculture knows that under the rules he may not impute motives to any hon. member or to any party in this house. In his diatribe against the opposition the minister has suggested we are seeking newspaper headlines.

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Horner:** He imputed improper motives to us. If he denies imputing those motives, fine and dandy. I submit he cannot deny them because an examination of *Hansard* will reveal exactly what he said. I think the minister ought to withdraw certain of his remarks.

**Mr. Olson:** I do not withdraw anything I have said, because I have as much right to establish a point as have hon. members on the other side of the chamber. The motion continues:

—in wheat movement in Vancouver Harbour—

Well, Mr. Speaker last week 380 cars, on an average, were unloaded in Vancouver every day, despite weather conditions which I admit were not favourable. In the summer, under ideal conditions, 650 cars per day may be unloaded. That figure has never been reached in wintertime.

**Mr. Horner:** It has.

**Mr. Olson:** It has not. The motion goes on to say:

—due to the failure of the government to work with the railways in scheduling box cars—

I listened to speeches from the opposition side and I have yet to hear one constructive criticism. Hon. members said, "There was not enough co-operation, not enough planning" and so on. They did not say where planning had broken down.