

Government Orders

Let me give a few examples of what this program will mean to the producer in terms of stabilizing a price over the period the grain is in storage. I will use corn as an example. These are figures from the Ontario Corn Growers Association. In 1986-1987, the average increased value per tonne from storage was \$4.54; in 1987-1988, that same advantage for storing that product and releasing it into the market at a later date was \$36.30 per tonne, money that is sorely needed by the producers and this legislation has to be made available to them.

The government is making these cuts on the pretext of cutting expenditures when in fact it is biting the hand that feeds it. The total cost of this program is approximately \$20 million to \$25 million, maybe \$27 million. Yet the government will take in about \$995 million, almost \$1 billion, in tax on alcoholic beverages. That is the increase in this year's budget.

Even more ludicrous is the fact that these fellows who take \$1.8 billion in taxes from the tobacco industry are now withdrawing a program in this sector of the industry that costs the government \$1 million. That is quite a return on the investment. The tobacco industry is contributing \$1.8 billion and it is only costing the government \$1 million. I think the government should reassess its position and withdraw this legislation.

How can this government be so callous? The projected taxes from the tobacco industry are as I just have stated. Add on alcoholic beverages of \$995 million, plus an additional increase of \$700 million in the sales tax on these items in this year's budget for a total of \$3.5 billion from tobacco and alcohol alone and the total budget of the department is \$2.35 billion in the coming year.

This reminds me of some of the earlier medical practices where a patient got sick and the early doctors of the day would bleed them a little bit. Of course, if they didn't get better, you bled them a little bit more. That is what the symptoms are here today. I should remind the government that quite often the patients died.

I submit that the discontinuation of these interest free loans and the dismantling of various other programs will mean the death of Canadian family farms because they are already being bled to death.

A few moments ago I spoke about some of the tactics of the Farm Credit Corporation on withholding reports and directives. Thousands of Canadian farmers and their families are in arrears with the FCC. This will further multiply the problem because they are counting on these interest free loans to tide them over.

Recently a constituent of mine received notice of order of sale just before he was to start harvesting his soybean and corn. At a time when he had a cash flow that was going to be available to him within a month or six weeks, this happened to him. I think that we should reassess what is happening with Farm Credit. It has become more of a collection agency than a lending agency.

I mentioned a moment ago that the amount of feed grade wheat is above normal. Consequently, the average price to the producer will be down dramatically. These interest free loans are needed and they are needed now, or else the number of farmers who will be foreclosed on will increase in the next few months.

It seems strange indeed that at the same time the government is cutting back on Canadian producers, the United States producers of soybeans in particular are already pressuring their government to bring in a similar program to stop the exploitation by the very large corporations and the speculators in the commodity exchanges.

In fact, if the Canadian program is being looked at as a subsidy by the U.S., has our government not challenged them on the Commodity Credit Corporation loans or the Export Enhancement Corporation loans? I wonder if the government got assurances from the U.S. that it will bring an immediate end to its export enhancement programs that drive down the price of international grains. The government is forging ahead with this legislation that will create additional hardship on our people.

I have a whole series of letters and requests from various producer organizations across Canada. One is dated October 2 from Prairie Pools Incorporated asking the government not to proceed with this bill. There is