

*Interim Supply*

• (7:40 p.m.)

Our forces are being rapidly depleted. We are going to be in a difficult situation if we continue to follow this trend and find ourselves in the position of having to supply a force for peace-keeping or take part in a conflict such as the Korean war. Our forces are deteriorating and this is not something that should happen in Canada.

It is my understanding that financial institutions in Ottawa and across the country are willing to lend money to civil servants on an interest-free basis in order that they may get by for two or three days while parliament makes up its mind. This indicates to me that they are in favour of straightening out the situation regarding our defence forces. There is a principle involved and I think we must face up to that principle.

As I said earlier, we are sitting here receiving big salaries and we must provide answers to the questions asked by our constituents. Let me make a final plea to the minister to send the bill to a committee for study before second reading. If everything is fine and there is nothing to hide no harm will be done. I have enough faith in the minister to believe that he will come up with an answer so that parliament can get on with its regular business. I hope that as a western member of this house I can go back and truthfully inform my constituents that what we finally decide to do is the right thing.

Let me refer to another important subject. In my area of Alberta there are about one and a half million bushels of wheat lying on the ground exposed to the elements. We have had snow, rain and freezing weather and this grain is rapidly decreasing in grade and value. In Lethbridge there is a government-owned elevator with a capacity of 1,500,000 bushels. It is only about one-fifth full. Could some arrangement be made whereby this elevator could be leased to a company and designated as a delivery point so that this tremendous amount of very valuable wheat could be placed under cover for the winter?

The minister has suggested that this would not be economical because it would cost 6 cents more per bushel to deliver it to this point. Even though it might cost an extra 6 would pay the extra cost themselves provided the elevator was designated as a delivery point. Even though it might cost an extra six cents a bushel to follow this plan it would be of benefit because the grain would be in better condition for delivery to the lakehead or

Vancouver. It would also be of benefit because the farmers would then have some money and would not have to pay the high interest charged on the money they must borrow to meet expenses. This is reasonable when you consider the squeeze between the cost of production and the market price. Let me ask the minister to reconsider his position because thousands of bushels of grain are lying outside unprotected and we are rapidly approaching the dead of winter.

One of my seatmates has asked me to suggest that the government consider leasing this elevator space. That is what I said earlier and I repeat that suggestion. It could be leased to companies other than grain companies such as a trucking company or a farming company. Why should this available space not be used, particularly when we have the best quality of grain in the world? Millions of bushels of grain are lying on the ground in piles and deteriorating while the government facility is not being used. I appreciate the fact that there must be extra space in the elevator for drying, cleaning and mixing the grain, but I make a particular plea to the Minister of Agriculture to consider this matter seriously. I compliment the government for having placed the Wheat Board under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture. This is why I am making this plea to him.

• (7:50 p.m.)

There are several other matters I should like to mention. I should like to say a few words about the treatment of our Canadian Indians. I should also like to say something about the policy of the national parks commission. I feel very strongly about these subjects but because we are accused of holding up the debate and holding up the cheques of the civil servants I will not speak any longer. I do not think we should be accused in this way because I think the government is responsible for the situation. I have faith in the minister and I think he will see the light and resolve this dilemma.

I mentioned the national parks policy but all I will say is that I take keen exception to the so-called new parks policy having to do with leasing. The government is going to take over property at the expiration of the lease and a board will compensate the former owners of that property. To me this smacks of socialism. I think this should be an election issue. The people of Canada should have the right to say whether or not this is what they want. I want to be on record as saying