

*Wheat Export Prices*

(Mr. Pepin) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). It was only a couple of months ago that the Minister of Agriculture reaffirmed his own belief in a two price system. I quote from a Canadian Press release dated May 1, 1969. It reads in part:

Agriculture minister H. A. Olson reaffirmed Thursday his belief in the principle of a two price system for wheat, but gave no indication that it would become government policy.

Why did he not have something to say about that tonight? Why did he have to wait for a backbencher from his own party who knows about farm problems to talk about alternatives other than the short range advance payments and increased debt solution which the Minister of Agriculture suggest? The article goes on to say:

As a Social Credit MP for Medicine Hat before joining the Liberals, Mr. Olson persistently called for a two price system.

We do not hear very much about that at present. When there is talk about a wheat crisis and when some members from across the aisle talk with not much evidence that they know very much about problems in agriculture, and when the farmers are told they should not grow so much grain, I wonder just how foolish the government can become in its reasoning. At least a third of the world's peoples, and that is more than a billion people, have gone to bed hungry tonight. Why cannot we do something drastic as far as the agricultural policy of this country is concerned. Why can we not back up what the Liberal party said in the last election, that is "Go ahead and sow your grain; we will sell it"? I remember it very well. Why can we not take what our farmers can produce in their efficiency and make it available to a hungry world?

We have heard some suggestions made here today. One which was made by a member to my left was ridiculed by the other side of the house. I do not think there was anything to ridicule about his suggestion. When there are people starving in the world and we have more grain than we know what to do with, there must be some way of making our surpluses available to those who do not have enough to satisfy their hunger. Why do the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce not take the lead in convincing the government to say to the farmer, "We will buy your grain. We will help you provide storage for it; we will store it on your farm and we will see that this grain goes out to the people who need it all across

the world." It may require the adjustment of the whole system of international settlements to different criteria. It does not necessarily mean a complete give away. It may require us to accept credits from countries in their own monetary exchange rather than demanding dollars for what we sell.

In the long range program we will not be able to continue using crutches and putting out palliatives of more debts and advance payments without solving the basic problems that our farmers face. Why do we not build more elevators to store grain? It has already been mentioned that one does not have to go farther than the scriptures to see why grain might be stored. Perhaps we should put the extra crop away for a few years until a time when we might not have grain or make it available to other parts of the world who do not have it. This is what we should hear the government talking about. Some of our newspapers are becoming aware of these problems and offer solutions which might be a little different from the status quo which is being advocated by the government. I am referring to the *Toronto Telegram* of July 16 where the following was stated:

As long as there are people in many parts of the world who go to bed hungry each night, Canada, as one of the major food producing nations, should continue to raise cereal grains and other foods and distribute these free to the needy countries.

The government should pay reasonable support prices to the farmers for wheat and the other food essentials produced.

No industry can survive when they are being forced to operate at less than the cost of their operations. I say to some members across the floor who are making a lot of noise at present, in the words of the article:

Since the Trudeau government took office, it has been reassessing Canada's contribution to such military alliances as NATO, NORAD and to various police-keeping forces. The Prime Minister has indicated that cutbacks in these could result in the savings of millions which could be used to assist some of the developing nations.

What a glorious opportunity he has now to help these countries in a tangible way. They could use the wheat and other food we have in great surplus and we should get it to them.

We could make arrangements and settlements other than those we now make. We could take the lead in convincing the rest of the wheat producing world that they have an obligation in this as well. The government hopes that the United States might listen to their cries as we beg for mercy from them and from their policies as they relate to the International Grains Arrangement. Why do