

little strong for the NDP, but everyone in this society must realize that we are all at fault. Do we or do we not care enough about what happens to the other man? I have seen this so often, as I am sure every hon. member of the House and of this country has. I have in mind the sloppy work that is so often done, yet people want to earn more and must earn more in order to counteract the effects of inflation. They think that the little bit they do is insignificant, but I suggest everything must be added to the cost of a commodity.

Mr. Paproski: You were referring to the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin), not the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Balfour).

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Don't heckle your own member.

Mr. Korchinski: Regina-Lake Centre, that is correct. What I said was wrong.

An hon. Member: You might as well put the blame where it belongs.

Mr. Korchinski: I only wanted to say that it is too easy to say somebody else is at fault, and that very often we must all share the responsibility. I agree with the hon. member who suggested that society is geared for planned obsolescence. When you consider the way some of the young fellows drive these vehicles into the ground, I would rather let them drive an old truck than buy them a new one, so long as the old truck was serviceable. That is fine for my purposes. We are not trying to compete with the Joneses out there. Therefore, I think there is a need for this type of legislation, and I think governments at all levels should take a firm stand.

When we consider our limited resources, what use is there in having one scrap pile after another in the farmers' yards just for the sake of a few missing parts? I know many farmers who operate old machines that are just as serviceable and just as handy as the new ones, and they are not making annual trips to the bank to get mortgages in order to buy new machines. In fact, these machines are just not available any more. So what is the alternative? Instead of scrapping the whole thing, perhaps one should adjust some things. All I am saying is that the government should consider this matter very carefully in view of the limited resources in this area. If this is done, perhaps someone in one of the big cities will suddenly take note of the fact instead of just saying that farmers can afford these machines. Someone should pick up the cudgel and say, "Let us provide the parts that are necessary. Let us carry the message not only to the machinery companies but right into the factories. Let us see if we cannot preserve some of the resources which we have, because they are limited".

● (1730)

I have no hesitation in supporting the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Neddoly) on this occasion, but I want to point out the other side of the story rather than simply blaming the machinery companies. For example, I could say that I think improvements could be made. A telex system could be adopted which would provide instant

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information. After all, we have the Zenith telephone system. This is an example of the kind of system which I think could be put into operation. I have had unhappy experiences with machines. They are pretty expensive. I do not think one has to go farther than five or ten miles from his own home town to find enough examples to fill a book. I believe the time has come when not only the provincial governments but the federal government must move into this area because of the absolute waste of resources that is occurring.

[Translation]

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise this afternoon to discuss Bill C-103 whose purpose is to ensure that anyone who buys a motor vehicle or farm implement which is manufactured in Canada and is conveyed from one province to another, or that anyone who buys a motor vehicle or farm tractor that is imported into Canada shall be guaranteed a supply of parts for a period of ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote here a few survey notes in that respect. In its public hearings, the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery was struck by the number and the firmness of the complaints made by all farm organizations about the difficulties encountered by farmers in finding efficient and reliable parts service. It seems to be felt generally speaking that manufacturers should be in a position to provide better service than now, particularly by stocking more parts with their dealers and branches. That is of prime importance for the farmer because a delay of a few days in getting a major piece of farm machinery going during a difficult harvest could result in very serious losses.

To better appreciate the nature and the extent of that problem, the commission made two surveys. The first one in November 1967 was limited to four provinces—Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—and urged farmers to point out any particular problem they had encountered in obtaining parts or maintenance for their implements in the period after April 1, 1966.

The second survey in January 1968 included the distribution of a shorter questionnaire to a specifically selected sample group of farmers across Canada. The purpose of the questionnaire was to provide an overall assessment of the extent and the seriousness of the problems encountered by farmers with respect to parts and maintenance.

During the first survey, some 50,000 questionnaires were distributed. Out of that number, 7,259 or about 15 per cent were returned. About 22 per cent of the forms returned mentioned a problem of spare parts or maintenance. The complaints dealt with 78 various kinds of material, but the ground of a great number of grievances, that is about 43 per cent, was tractors. Comparing the number of complaints and each kind of implements on the farms, it became clear that as far as the number in use was concerned, the combine gave more trouble than any other equipment, perhaps due to the complexity of the machine and the large number of working parts.

In a more thorough follow-up of the survey 20 typical complaints were selected for each of the four provinces and an interviewer met with the farmers, the suppliers