

organizations long ago. Those cheques should have been in the mail by now.

However, I want to ask him if he has any indication as to how long those loans are usually applied for. Is it four months out of the season, from the time of harvest until four or six months later? Does he have any indication on that? He mentioned that 40 per cent of the potato growers in Prince Edward Island use these loans. Does he have any indication as to how many would use them if they take away the interest free provisions of the original legislation?

**Mr. McGuire:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. The answer is that as far as the potato growers are concerned the time they use this interest free advance payment is from six to eight months. Many of our farmers are building temperature controlled storages which enable them to hold their very perishable crop for very extended periods of time from harvest time until the following June when the prices normally go up and they can receive a better return for their product.

As I stated in my speech, 40 per cent of the potato growers use the advance payments scheme. I am told by the minister of agriculture in Prince Edward Island and by some of the producers in Prince Edward Island that they will no longer be using the program. In effect what the government members are doing is eliminating this tool from the arsenal which the potato producers have to make a viable operation of their farm. They are making it such that they will no longer be able to use it. As far as they are concerned the government may as well do away with the bill in total, because it will be of little benefit to them.

**Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River):** Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak in the House the other day on the main motion, and now it is my privilege to be able to rise and speak on the amendment to that motion.

The fact that I felt compelled to rise again to speak on this general debate really is as a result of some of the statements which the Minister of Grains and Oilseeds made earlier in the day and when he began his remarks on this subject yesterday.

The minister said yesterday that he felt somewhat sad at the tone of this debate, that he felt bad about some of things that he was hearing coming from the opposition

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benches. I do not blame the minister at all for feeling sad and bad about what he is hearing from the opposition benches because the report from the *western producer* that I read into the record, which included even people from his own constituency association, reflects very clearly the fact that what he is hearing from the opposition is in fact what he is hearing from the people of Canada, from the farmers of Canada and their organizations. He knows very well that this government of which he is a part is flying in the face of farm opinion from coast to coast. If I was the minister who had to stand up and defend that I would be sad as well.

I think it is a clear indication that this government has turned its back on the farm community, that it has written off the farm community. It thinks it need only appeal to the people in the suburbs who might gain some benefit through some of the financial manoeuvring on the stock markets and so on. This government likes to encourage those who might benefit from the large pools of capital that are left floating around the country, but it refuses to collect taxes from large corporations. Certainly that is the segment of the population this government wants to appeal to and no longer the farm community which kept it alive from the time of my predecessor John Diefenbaker on.

The minister also accused the opposition, I think his words were, of making some outrageous statements about the bill that is before us. I think the most outrageous thing that I have heard is the government's defence of this bill when he accused the opposition of dragging its heels, holding up this bill and keeping farmers from getting their money. He said he hoped that farmers across the country would jump on the opposition and call us to task for holding up their money. That is just totally preposterous. I did not think somebody who is as widely respected as the Minister for Grains and Oilseeds would even make that kind of a statement because the record on this is very clear.

The reason that we are into this in the first place is that the government, on April 27, did not include in its budget the leaked document that we hung around here at night trying to take a look at, the \$27 million that was needed for cash advances in this year. The government was required by statute to include that money in the budget. It is a statutory provision and the government broke that, so it was then caught in the position where