

to make sure that they have the support of other parts of Canada, we are here to make sure that those involved in illegal activity realize that we will not tolerate it. There is no misunderstanding whatsoever as to the position of, I hope, all of us with respect to illegal activity, and we want to demonstrate to those who are suffering that we will not tolerate it.

When that type of solidarity is required, hon. members from Quebec need not look very far afield because there are many men and women in this chamber who will stand with them to correct wrongs which seem to have been perpetrated upon them in the last week or so.

● (2350)

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude Tessier (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I agreed to take part in this debate because we too on this side of the House share the concern of producers, and particularly the producers of Quebec and eastern Canada. We are ready to recognize and respect the rights of workers, even the right to strike, within the limits of the rights and duties provided for in the labour code. However, if we have to consider the great harm done to the producers, the agricultural industry and the economy of eastern Canada, we are ready to act. The situation has been termed a crisis situation, and we cannot sit back while it deteriorates to the point of assuming disastrous proportions. As to the role of Parliament and the government, it is becoming more obvious hour by hour, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) himself already said so, because he knows he can rely on Parliament.

As to the role of various co-operative associations, representations were actually made, and we accept them and thank those who make them, for even though we know they were working in their own interests, after all, we are beginning to think that they were also working for the common good.

This is not a test case which will afford us the opportunity to teach a lesson to some people. What we have to do is grant a salary which will ensure us the respect of the people, of our organizations and institutions, in our economy and our agriculture, and also in social peace. What we have to do is avoid stirring up merely emotional reactions. We have a duty and an obligation to base our actions on the principles which should guide legislators: first, the public weal and the common weal; second, the respect of the letter and the spirit of the law; third, the necessity to accept only means that are in keeping with present economic and social restraints as well as the needs of individuals and associations.

Finally, to accept the principles of free enterprise and freedom. Leadership is absolutely necessary and there is no room for compromise when it is a matter of respecting the law and making people respect the law, especially if the law and the common weal are involved. This leadership is given fully by the government, every hour, and if it is necessary to take action, action will be taken.

Quarrels and party politics are a dangerous game, since they weaken Parliament, and it should be known that the population is indifferent to parliamentary games since it is the results that count and all the words, opportunism

### *Feed Grain*

and mean politics only discredit the institution of Parliament in the eyes of all thinking men.

In our own struggles, we must show maturity and logic. I would like to give an example of this. A few weeks ago, the APU made representations to get \$11.60 a hundred-weight of milk. Members of the APU came to meet us. They even threatened us by saying that it was essential that they get \$11.60, otherwise, there would be trouble. We saw those same representatives today and they were asking us to take very severe action against other workers. Does this mean that as far as we are concerned, there is one system for one segment of society and another system for another group? I believe that in the case of milk, as in the case under consideration tonight, the government will act with authority and, as usual, we can be assured that the action it takes will be appropriate.

We have and will continue to have this authority and sense of our responsibilities and, instead of talking about it, we will continue to act. Respect commands respect, and if we want to be respected, we, the members of this Parliament, must act accordingly. We take our responsibilities with the courage it requires as concerns respect for people, rights of individuals, organizations and even unions, respect for institutions, legislators, Parliament, government, democracy and rights, respect for the human being in general, which, as a matter of fact, is supposed to be a favourite theme of my friends the Social Crediters. It is also dear to us, but this is not demagogic affirmations or empty words, but a fluid and complex reality to be built every day, and this is what we are doing taking into consideration the whole Canadian reality, this moving reality.

With respect to solutions concerning grains, those who need supplies must be supplied, and the game and whims of those who prevent them from being so must stop immediately. Furthermore, it is necessary to improve that supply by making it less vulnerable, and I ask the minister to take the necessary steps to give the proper person the necessary authority.

Then, as in cases where the situation gets worse, the government is not using violence, but when there is no agreement, the economy and public welfare are concerned, someone must decide at the proper time and place, and the resulting peace is a subject for rejoicing for the great majority, except inexperienced or professional agitators and for them, in the name of the majority, I have no pity.

I am not too eager to support tonight's speaking marathon, but I can assure those interested that the government is aware of the situation, and because the interests of our economy and agriculture are involved, a decision will be taken in due time and place.

That also is respect for the people and the rules we have accepted, and of which we are courageous enough to take the consequences, without, however, neglecting our responsibilities.

The government is prepared to act as arbitrator if and when necessary. The pursuit of the objectives of both parties remains total, and it rests with each of them to respect the common weal, otherwise the government will have no other choice but to step in.