

Supply

reason they are building there is because they no longer have to go to the board to buy oats.

There are similar investments going on in Alberta presently and there are also similar investments being contemplated in Saskatchewan. So when you talk about the Canadian Wheat Board and oats, there is another side to it, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member referred to a survey which he said found that 70 per cent, and then as he got on in his speech he said 80 per cent, of the producers wanted the board to handle oats. That is true. But in that same survey the producers were asked who they thought would get them the most money, the board or private trade. A majority, I think about 60 per cent, said that the non-board selling of oats is going to get them more money. So, while a lot of people wanted the board to handle oats, a majority said that other than the board would get them more money for their product.

Let me talk a little bit here about the problem in this motion. The motion refers to drought, low initial prices, interest rates, and the international grain trade war. It suggests that we can solve all those things by putting \$500 million into the farm economy. By the way, they are not low initial prices, they are low initial payments, if you want to really get technical about it. If the member is a farmer he should know that.

I grew up in the area which the member represents. I lived in Township 28, Range 5, west of the third, so I know a little bit about the member's riding.

Five hundred million dollars is not a lot of money to solve those problems. The hon. member says that we should pay out the money regardless of whether we are going to get the provinces to contribute. That is a little bit of a contradiction. If he worried about getting money to farmers, he should be worried about getting additional money from the provinces. You would think he would have included in his motion the ability to lever, if you will, additional cash from the provinces to give to the farmers. If we are going to put up the money which we have had on the table since the end of March and we are going to be able to get the provinces to contribute some additional cash, you would think that would help the farmers.

Edmund Burke defined a conservative as somebody who believes that nothing should ever be done for the first time and I have to think that that is the hon.

member and his party and his policies. They do not want us to try to gain access to a rich market in the U.S. with better rules. They do not want us to go to GATT and negotiate to get better rules. They do not want to be part of the review process. We live in a changing world. The Minister of Agriculture has a major review under way with about 200 people in the industry involved from coast to coast. The hon. member and his party do not want any of those things. They are against all of those things. They are against the GST. The GST is going to benefit farmers to the tune of about \$250 million.

Mr. Crawford: You've been off the farm too long, fellow.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Mayer: I got their attention, Mr. Speaker. The crows were back on the prairies and they just arrived in the House.

How can somebody, in all good conscience, stand up and ask that the federal government give farmers \$500 million, when he should know, if he does his homework, that because food is exempted farmers are not going to be paying the manufacturer's sales tax or the GST, when it is replaced, on agricultural products. They are not going to pay it on bearings, belts, pulleys, sprockets or antifreeze, on any of the agricultural parts that they now pay it on. They are not going to pay it on half-ton trucks.

• (1550)

Mr. Crawford: Is that a promise?

Mr. Mayer: They don't want to hear, Mr. Speaker. With due respect to the hon. member from Vancouver who made the point that she resents being talked about, there is not a farmer over there so they do not know what they are talking about.

The point is that with the removal of the manufacturer's sales tax and the application of the GST, food items—

Mr. Crawford: Repeat that: "Farmers will not pay GST."

Mr. Mayer: If the hon. member wants to get up on debate, we would be more than happy to hear him rather than have him yelling from his seat like he is. If he does not like what I am saying—

Mr. Crawford: I'm not going to have you stand up there and misquote.