

*Grain*

Because the Conservative government of the day did not want to listen to the just requests of the official opposition—because we were asking for reasonable measures—the official opposition is forced to-day to ask for an emergency debate to advocate methods of insuring the export of grain, since the port of Vancouver seems to be congested. As I was asking then, grain elevators should have been built as far as the lower St. Lawrence area, that is at Baie Comeau, Sept-Îles, Rimouski, Rivière-du-Loup, Berthier-en-Bas, Trois-Rivières and even in the Saguenay area, in order to allow the people of the Lake St. John district to store the surplus grain of the western producers in a place where it would not be wasted. If this theory had been accepted, the problem would have been solved automatically.

When the Liberals took office, they suggested to appoint a Minister of Agriculture for eastern Canada who would have solved all those problems. If we must discuss today the problem of the accumulation of grain at the port of Vancouver, the difficulty to export grain to the countries that are waiting to get their orders, it is because a Conservative government did not want to see the situation in order to help our people in 1962, refused to keep its promises, like the present government that promised to appoint a Minister of Agriculture for the East, with a view to solving these storage and grain distribution problems.

I wish this emergency debate would last all night and would go on to-morrow because, according to the new rule, there would be no limit to the discussion. This has happened in England. I saw it also recently in Paris: the debate went on until 5 o'clock in the morning, on an important problem. I wish this discussion would last forever so that people would at last recognize that even if we, of the Ralliement Crétiste, are not listened to, we are still causing the voice of the people to be heard. It is the voice of truth, and it would be normal, for those on this side to lend an ear to it more often, so that they would know exactly what the people want.

I was expelled from the house in 1962 because I was demanding justice for the Eastern farmers and I was asking that the Western farmers be allowed to ship their grain to safe places so that it could be used one day by people who would need it. Victim of that unfair treatment, of that difficulty, and that humiliation, I am not at all ashamed, and I would not hesitate to do it all over again for

the welfare of our fellow citizens. It is imperative at times that the truth be heard in this house.

In 1963, and in 1965, the then government made promises, and did so again at the last election campaign. One could read in the newspapers a statement which I compare with those I made in 1962.

I will quote this statement word for word to show that if equal distribution had been allowed across the country, we would not have all these problems that face us today in respect of grain accumulating in Vancouver and we would not even have to talk about the problem of distribution arising from the lack of cars, as for the grain to get there in time before harvest around September 15, for distribution across the country, space would have had to be found to store that wheat which might feed humanity tomorrow. In fact, if every Canadian got his fair share, as it should have been long ago, we would have prosperity and not all the present problems.

So, I shall quote this newspaper article showing, as I said, that we are asking for fair things not always accepted, even ridiculed at times, but which become realities after a few years of thinking. Here is what is said exactly in this article from the "Meunier Québécois" of December 1968:

Truly, for some time, a lot of talk not to mention money has been wasted on the grain elevators in the Quebec harbour. We will not blame this one or that. We must consider the facts and judge positively. Is the present situation to the advantage of the farmer and the Canadian taxpayer? Let us recapitulate this matter from two years back—

• (8:50 p.m.)

As for me I would rather say for the last seven years. In fact, we have asked for fairer measures in 1962. I am reading on:

In January 1967, the National Harbours Board publicly announced that the grain elevator in Quebec was going to be rented or sold by tenders. Tenders were called and BUNGE OF CANADA LTD rented the elevator for a 10-year period. This lease provided for two renewal options at a rental rate to be determined by the National Harbours Board. Rental for the first ten years amounts to about \$915,959 yearly.

At the same time, the National Harbours Board announced that it had received two bids following the public tenders and that the bid made by BUNGE OF CANADA LTD—

—an American company—

—had been found the most favourable.

That company that had intended to build a grain elevator at Sept-Îles in Quebec, had abandoned that project, independently of whether