

Interim Supply

it is not good enough for Parliament to be recessing, leaving behind so much unfinished business.

There are many other items not yet attended to, but at this moment I will list just one more, the one about which I asked the Minister of Labour a question on the orders of the day this afternoon, namely the proposed legislation regarding safety in employment. This, too, is something that the Government promised at the second session of Parliament. It was promised again by putting it in the Speech from the Throne at the start of this session. As a matter of fact, this is something that was before us even during the last Parliament under the previous Government but it never got passed. It is a serious situation which arises because of our division of responsibilities between the provinces and the federal government. There are plants in this country which come under federal labour jurisdiction. When accidents take place, even if someone is hurt or killed, the provincial safety people cannot go in to make an investigation because the plant comes under federal labour jurisdiction. I know of some cases where this has actually happened. As long as we have this division between provincial and federal jurisdiction in the labour field, we will need federal legislation in the safety field comparable to that which exists in the provinces.

As I say, the Minister of Labour promised us last session that this measure would be introduced. He made the same promise this session, and we have been told from time to time that the legislation was ready and would be brought before us soon. We were told that last fall. We went through that long session last year without ever seeing the measure on the order paper. We have been 53 days in this session and it still is not on the order paper. As hon. Members are aware, I asked the Minister of Labour about this on the orders of the day this afternoon and he said it would not be on the order paper before the session recessed. I then asked him if it would be on the order paper after we came back. I fear I did not word that supplementary question very well because it enabled him to say, yes, it would be on afterwards but afterwards might be two or three months or two or three years afterwards. We need this legislation on the order paper at the time we come back in September.

There are other matters, but I did want to list these seven or eight which I think

are very important. I regret that we have gone 53 days without dealing with them. I hope when we come back in the fall this Government will realize the people of Canada expect action to increase the old age security pension to \$100 per month and action to bring in the Canada Assistance Plan. They expect action on medicare. They expect something to be done for our superannuated civil servants, for retired members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, defence service personnel and retired employees of the Canadian National Railways. They expect action on the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act. They expect action on the proposed legislation regarding safety in employment. I regret that there is so much unfinished business. If we give the Government two or two and a half months in which to attend to things, I hope it will use that time to get these various matters into legislative shape. I urge that they will be on the order paper without fail when we return in September.

Mr. Southam: I can assure hon. Members of the committee I am not going to take up very much of their time, Mr. Chairman, knowing that we are all anxious to wrap up this session. However, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not at this time rise in my place and register a very strong complaint about the emergency situation that is developing in western Canada. I am sorry that the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Transport are not in their seats. The emergency to which I am referring concerns the pile-up of grain on farms in Western Canada.

As hon. Members know, western Canada reaped a very bountiful harvest last year. With the quota system we have this has moved out gradually. For some unknown reason, during the past few weeks we have found box cars have not been available for this grain to move off western farms. The emergency is aggravated by the fact we have prospects of another large crop in the West this year, and we are very thankful for that. As I have said, we work on a quota system and at the end of the crop year, which is July 31, most of this grain should be moved off the farmers' hands and into the elevators in the process of being moved to market. The farmers would then have space in which to house the new crop. Members from western Canada have been bringing this problem to the attention of Ministers for the last six weeks. My hon. friend from Swift Current-