

*Government Wheat Policy*

not sufficient competent technicians at the terminals.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It seems to me the hon. member has been referring more to the urgency of the matter than to the question of urgency of debate. Perhaps he might very soon bring his remarks in line with the requirements of the rules of the house.

**Mr. Korchinski:** With all respect, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring out the fact that a debate is absolutely necessary, and to show that the problem is directly related to the fact that there are not sufficient competent staff at the terminal elevators, even though we have known since September that the situation was such that we would require more staff at the elevators.

Without further comment, Mr. Speaker, I urge the house to have this matter debated, particularly as there are other matters pertaining to the labour contract which must also be discussed. Apparently the contract does not permit the labourers to work on a seven day basis, and that is something which must be brought out during the debate. I therefore urge Your Honour to accept the motion.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest many of the comments of hon. members opposite and I thought I should bring to their attention, and particularly to that of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Southam) two additional statements from the chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board speaking in his capacity as chairman of the transportation commission.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the minister, who is obviously going to make a contribution to the substance of the matter. I hesitate to interrupt him in view of the fact that contributions of the same nature have already been made in the debate, but in any event I have to remind him that, as much as possible, contributions should be limited in this debate to the procedural aspects of the matter.

**Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt):** Mr. Speaker, I was trying to deal with the question of urgency in the tone I have heard from other hon. members. The point of the statement of the chief commission was that there was an attitude on the part of some farmers to the effect that there was in fact no problem at all, and he was bringing to their attention the fact that there was still some problem

[Mr. Korchinski.]

left. I would like to read the final two sentences in his report:

All producers should be made aware of this situation. Current reports from the provincial departments of agriculture indicate a very substantial farm drying capacity which, if used fully, can go a long way toward helping farmers cope with this very serious problem.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, the contribution by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) is one that will always be remembered for its impotence, its total disregard of the facts and the serious situation on the prairie. It is an amazing thing that we have two ministers from western Canada, both without portfolio, the one who has spoken who is not too conversant with this subject and the other from Manitoba who is one of the greatest authorities on wheat and the marketing of wheat in all Canada, but he has not chosen to make a contribution to the debate. Indeed, Liberal members have maintained silence in the face of the most serious situation we have faced in western Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Is the situation getting worse? Will the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Richardson) from Manitoba say the situation is getting better when only 12 million bushels have as yet been transported to the head of the lakes for drying, 12 million out of 250 million bushels?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must remind the right hon. gentleman, as I have already reminded other members, that the debate at this time is simply on the question of urgency of debate, and that we should not be debating the urgency of the matter itself.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I was just answering the vacuous statement by the hon. minister from Saskatoon, and pointing out that what he said indicated he has no appreciation of what the situation is, and how it has worsened. For weeks we have tried to get action and the government, King Canute fashion, has simply sat, listened and done nothing to meet an ever worsening condition. According to the statement made today by the hon. member who moved this motion there are 250 million bushels of wheat that have to be dried—250 million bushels, and the government sits and does nothing. Surely this would have been a time when the Prime Minister, with his just society, would have listened and said this is unjust and the house should have an opportunity of speaking out.