

*Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act*

tained opposition except from this side of the House, and that we have been misleading the agricultural industry. Will he now stand up and say there is no sustained opposition except from this side of the House? If he could see the coupons, letters and everything else that I have been getting, from a constituency next to his—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I know that the hon. member is going to lead into discussion of the bill before the House, but I respectfully draw his attention to the fact that the editorial which he quoted and his remarks have been related more to other legislation than the bill before the House at the present time.

**Mr. Olson:** Let us have a few relevant remarks.

**Mr. McIntosh:** You want me to stop when it hurts, but I will have lots of opportunity to get back at you, Mr. Minister, at the right time and with the right tactics, too. I realize, Mr. Speaker, that you have been very lenient but my remarks were necessary because of the interjections that were made.

I understand that a recent cabinet minister, the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans), left his position because he was not satisfied with the advice that economists and other high priced help were giving the cabinet and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I cannot understand why the two ministers representing Alberta and Saskatchewan do not do the same thing. The hon. member for Duvernay said that the cabinet advisers were second rate. I am quite sure that people engaged in agriculture in western Canada are convinced these two ministers from the west are not just second rate but fourth or fifth rate, so far as the advice they have been getting and so far as the advice that they have been giving the Prime Minister on agriculture is concerned.

I said that I think both these ministers are just puppets pulled by a string. I do not think for one moment that the Minister of Agriculture, coming from cattle country, believes what he is trying to put across to the people of Canada. I do not believe that the minister in charge of the Wheat Board actually believes what he is trying to tell the House. But these two ministers are compelled to do these things because a decision has been made by the Liberal party to introduce state control, call it whatever you wish, over agriculture in the rural areas of Canada.

**An hon. Member:** That's it.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Yes, and I can understand why some of the members of the NDP sitting to my left are going to support some of this legislation.

**Mr. Olson:** It was one of your own members who said that.

**Mr. McIntosh:** I could refer back to the situation a year ago with respect to Bill C-197. The only fear NDP members who come from western Canada have is that the government is going to out-socialize the NDP. This is regrettable, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. McIntosh.]

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in supporting this amendment calling for a six months hoist because I believe that for the most part the cash advances system has worked very well in its present form. I see the primary purpose of this bill is to make collections by the government easier in the future. That is the whole gist of it. It will not really enhance the position of the producer so far as his ability to get cash advances is concerned. It is a government housekeeping measure, to make it easier for the government to collect and to squeeze the farmer a little tighter. For these reasons, I would like to see the bill delayed for six months so that we may get an indication from the producers whether or not they want to be squeezed in this manner.

Under the present system, cash advances cover wheat, oats and barley, and now it is proposed to include rape-seed, flaxseed and rye. This simply means that when a farmer takes various grains to the market place there will be a deduction made in respect of all of them. Prior to that he had an opportunity to deliver his wheat in repayment for his loan, but he could still sell his rape-seed or other grain for cash. Now, when he sells anything he will have to repay his loan immediately, which means that the credit being extended will be for a shorter period of time.

• (4:50 p.m.)

When I spoke on this bill yesterday I tried to impress on the minister the concern that everybody feels about the tight manner in which credit is strung across the farming belt. The farmers owe money to the banks and to the Farm Credit Corporation. Only this morning in committee the head of the Farm Credit Corporation told us that in the province of Alberta 26 per cent of the total loans are in arrears. This is a serious situation, Mr. Speaker.

An article which appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* of April 7 encouraged me to believe that the minister in charge of the Wheat Board was concerned about the plight of the farmers. In case some members are not aware of his genuine concern, I should like to read some excerpts from the article regarding the two price system for wheat which is to be introduced to help the western grain farmer. The article reads:

Otto Lang, the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, made the recommendation himself to cabinet about two months ago when the government was discussing the final details of his new grains stabilization policy though he declines to acknowledge this.

Mr. Lang, it was learned here, told his cabinet colleagues he was convinced the grain farmer needed his basic income supplemented and the best way to do this was through a two-price system that would increase and subsidize the domestic price of wheat.

There was considerable opposition inside cabinet because of what a two-price system would do to the prices of such basic staples as bread and flour. Consumer Affairs Minister Ron Basford is reported to have been in the forefront of the opposition.

Still referring to the minister, the article continues:

He told *Southam News Services* he had become convinced the farmer was getting a raw deal compared with other sectors of the economy.