

means they are in a position to recirculate the money from that program back into the economy before they normally would if they had to await the sale of their products.

In the case of cash advances from the Canadian Wheat Board, that program has worked exceptionally well. There is an added reason the Government should proceed quickly with such legislation. I see the former Minister of Transport in the House. When one of his responsibilities was the Canadian Wheat Board, he told us in June, 1983 that in September legislation would be introduced to amend cash advances for prairie grain. That has not happened. It did not happen last fall. It is now mentioned in the Throne Speech, but we have seen no evidence of it coming forward to date in this session. Cash advances for prairie grain is an exceptionally good program because it is operated through the Canadian Wheat Board. I repeat that for the sake of the Government. It reminds me of the story about the person who was going out to break a horse. All he was carrying was a two-by-four. He was asked: "What do you want the two-by-four for?" He said: "I have to beat him over the head to get his attention before I try to do other things with him". That is where we are at with this legislation; we have to say it over and over again.

The point is that the Canadian Wheat Board borrows money at prime minus a quarter per cent. That would make it imperative for the Government to proceed with the legislation because money put into circulation as a result of the Canadian Wheat Board borrowing at prime minus would save every producer taking advantage of interest costs. No other producer in the country can borrow money at less than prime rate. It does not make any sense that the Government is unwilling to proceed with that legislation. We are prepared to pass it very quickly in the House. If it were a straightforward, simple amendment to raise the cash advances, we would be prepared to pass it very quickly; in fact this afternoon.

The Hon. Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson) whose responsibility as critic is the Canadian Wheat Board has indicated that to the Minister responsible in the other place, but nothing has happened. The Government charges that we have no policies, no ideas, and that we simply obstruct and hold things up. This is one example—and I could give many more—of where that is certainly not the case.

We are encouraging the Government to come forward with something that makes common sense, yet we see no action. There are many other things in the Throne Speech which make sense as far as Canadian agriculture is concerned. I could refer to them all, but I would say from my point of view and that of all of us on this side that we were pleased to see the Government at least recognize the importance of agriculture and that it was enough aware of it to mention it ten times in the Throne Speech. Our problem is not with what the Government said in the Throne Speech. It is with getting the Government to act on some of the things it says it wants to do.

I see Mr. Speaker giving me the speed-up sign, and in conclusion I would like to quote a brief sentence from the remarks of the Prime Minister as reported on page 48 of *Hansard*. He said:

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That reminds me of Molière's character who blindly endorsed the opinions of the elders. For him, it was a virtue.

When the Prime Minister said that, he was referring to Hon. Members on this side of the House. That more accurately and aptly describes Hon. Members on the other side who very blindly, and in many cases sheepishly, endorse the opinions of their elders, in this case the senior elder, the Prime Minister of the country.

I think history will judge the Prime Minister and the Government very harshly. The Prime Minister came to power when our country had a lot of goodwill and a tremendous amount of potential. He is leaving shortly, at least I hope so, as do many people in the country. One of the reasons he has been able to stay so long is that the people behind him have done exactly what I quoted him as saying. That is precisely what Liberal members have done. Not only will history judge the Prime Minister and the Government very harshly; it will judge people who supported him and blindly accepted his opinion.

We are a bankrupt country. The people in the Government are also bankrupt. They are bankrupt morally, spiritually and as far as ideas are concerned. It does not make any sense in the 20th century, when Canada has more resources per capita than any other country, when we have tremendous people and various things going for us, that we somehow cannot get our act together and perform to our capacity so that individual citizens, families and communities have the benefit of Canada's potential. It is a disgrace that we are performing to such bad standards.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mayer: I see that I am getting some reaction from the other side.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. Questions, comments? Debate.

• (1520)

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to talk about women and, in particular, about how the new commitments in the Throne Speech build on an unassailable record of achievement in this most vital area of concern to a majority of Canadians. I stress "a majority of Canadians" because women constitute 52 per cent of the population in Canada. I must remind Hon. Members of this House occasionally of that fact.

I am particularly pleased today to speak on this subject because I do not often get the chance. It puzzles me somewhat that Hon. Members opposite are conspicuously silent on the subject of women. It is a rare occasion when a Member across the way deigns to put a question to me on this Government's policy on women. I dare say it might be a lack of familiarity with the issues which zips their lips, or perhaps a lack of interest, or perhaps the realization that in good conscience they cannot oppose actions or policies with which one has no quarrel. In that respect I accept the congratulations of Hon.