

*Supply—Finance*

board could have done anything in those circumstances? I say it could have done nothing.

However, the negotiations were kept going for six long weeks. The members of the wheat board did not want to stay there particularly but nevertheless they stayed. It was my job as minister, as I saw it, and that of the cabinet to which I belonged to secure enough money to make credit sales possible. Not one bushel of wheat after the first cash sale could have been sold to China if we on this side of the house had not put our political life on the line and made available \$100 million eventually in the form of a revolving credit.

**Mr. Churchill:** That is how the wheat was sold.

**Mr. Hamilton:** We were condemned for that sale over and over again by the Liberal party. That sale could not have been made without the tremendous experience and know-how of the officials of the Canadian Wheat Board. Over there there was no way for the minister to back them up. The minister had to go along with them and he had to be prepared to come into this house and take the abuse to which we on this side were then subjected.

When your son is called a communist because you are selling wheat to red China, when your party is castigated by the Liberal and Social Credit parties because you are selling wheat to China, when you are told by the then leader of the opposition who is now the Prime Minister that you are selling too much wheat to China on credit, it makes you think. I read speeches to this effect made in New Brunswick by-elections. I know the whisperings and rumours that went round Toronto and Montreal. The Liberal party ought to talk to the farmers with respect to the vile campaign of calumny in which the Liberals engaged. The farmers know something about this.

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

**Mr. Hamilton:** Do not try to tell the western farmers who sold the wheat. The western farmers will simply say to you that the Chinese know who sold the wheat.

**Mr. Sharp:** It was the Canadian Wheat Board.

**Mr. Hamilton:** There was a former line of kings known as the Bourbons who learned nothing and forgot nothing. C. D. Howe was a representative of the Bourbons and the minister is his successor.

[Mr. Hamilton.]

**Mr. Sharp:** And I am proud of it.

**Mr. Hamilton:** You are proud?

**Mr. Sharp:** You bet I am.

**Mr. Hamilton:** I know you are. You have ruined the Liberal party in western Canada for a generation to come. Jimmy Gardiner spent 40 years building up the most amazing political machine of force and inducement that Canada has ever known. The minister put that organization on the skids. The man who did more to destroy it than any other man is the Minister of Finance who is now in charge of the wheat board.

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

**Mr. Hamilton:** I know they will blame the loss of the next election on the appointment of Mr. Argue to the Senate, but that will not be the real reason. The real reason will be that the minister refused to back up the Canadian Wheat Board at the international and domestic level when it needed his backing. I wish to conclude with a personal observation.

**Mr. Sharp:** These have all been personal observations.

**Mr. Hamilton:** I know the minister is very happy about these remarks. He would not take them on Friday because he was frightened.

**Mr. Sharp:** Don't be silly. They would have been out of order.

**Mr. Hamilton:** All right. The minister is happy with his announcement. I want to conclude with some personal observations with regard to the minister and myself. After the government changed in 1963 the minister imagined himself as a new type of political know-how man. He was going to show everyone how to win political support. He started out on a campaign in western Canada to cut the previous minister of agriculture down to size. I have noted the innuendos in all those speeches of his which have been acknowledged by the genteel clapping of all the gentlemen of the grain exchange who came to hear him. I have known of every snide remark he made. He featured himself as a great new type of political person. He sat in his place as Minister of Trade and Commerce and lectured the Conservative party on politics.

Then he went on the campaign in 1965. He said he was accepting the challenge in the west and was going to increase Liberal strength there; whether by six seats or 12 seats