

Wheat Export Prices

then science can look after that. The taste of the fish can be taken away and it can be made to taste like wheat or pizza or anything you like. There are 40 Ph.D.'s in the Department of Agriculture. What are they doing except emulating the Prime Minister by saying, we cannot do anything about it. Such attitudes do not help one bit in this situation. If there is nothing the government can do about it, then may I say that I, myself, could do a great deal more than the whole tribe over there put together.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Bigg: We do not want a dictatorship in this country, but if we did I would volunteer for the job because I have more brains in my little finger than the people over there have in all their heads put together. I have given them more ideas in the last five minutes than they have had in the last year. I say, give us some reason to believe in you; give us some morale so we can tell our people the Parliament of Canada likes them and wants to do something for them. But let me say that when the government says it cannot do anything, the just society will never be built on that.

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, it is not often I have the opportunity to agree with the editorial department of the *Calgary Herald*, but I should like to take my text for this evening from an editorial in that distinguished Conservative newspaper for Saturday, July 19. The editorial entitled "Don't Pretend" reads:

It would be wonderful if oratory could sell Canada's wheat.

Then something worth while might be expected to result from the special debate to be held next week in the House of Commons on the wheat crisis.

But it's no use pretending that rousing words and rolling phrases are going to do the trick. That has been tried countless times before and didn't work. The pages of Hansard that have been filled through the years with words about Western Canada's wheat problems could well command a small fortune as scrap paper.

Unfortunately, the clairvoyance of that newspaper in discerning that a debate would be held here this week was not shared by members of the opposition. Because this party, through its co-operation and concern, permitted the debate to commence early, the opposition speakers were not prepared at all. They simply were not ready and as a result dusted off old speeches and were undeterred by facts relating to what is developing in the world. Furthermore, they have permitted this debate to proceed without the

hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), St. John the Baptist of the wheat farming people. The hon. member who spoke no less than eight times on the farm credit bill, no less than five times on the farm improvement loans bill, once on the farm machinery syndicates credit bill and four times on the prairie farm advance payments bill, has not been given an opportunity to participate in this debate. I think this is a gross unfairness to him.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) saw nothing wrong with assistance for farmers short of cash, regardless of their substantial assets. Again, if I may, I should like to refer to the editorial in the *Calgary Herald*, and I agree with it:

It is hard for people to understand why an industry such as wheat farming cannot withstand the economic rigors of one or two bad years like other industries without demanding government hand-outs.

Prime Minister Trudeau said it is hard for a fisherman earning only \$2,000 a year to understand why a farmer with land and equipment worth \$100,000 should consider himself eligible for government assistance. It is hard to understand because it simply cannot be justified.

The Leader of the Opposition sees nothing wrong with this. I think the perspicacity of the Leader of the Opposition is destined to assure him in his present position at least until he is replaced by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) or the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette). The Leader of the Opposition does not accept that conditions in the grain industry are the result of international circumstances beyond the control of the Canadian government. With respect I would suggest that the following would summarize the facts of the case.

The last three years have seen excellent harvests throughout the world, mainly as a result of favourable climatic conditions. In each of these three years, world production was higher than in any preceding year in history. Much of this increased production occurred in importing countries whose requirements of wheat were thus increasingly met from domestic supplies. As a result, imports of wheat declined and world trade dropped in the last four years. In 1965-66 world trade totalled 2.3 billion bushels. In the most recent crop year, shipments of wheat were less than 1.7 billion bushels, a reduction of more than 25 per cent.

The drop in world trade in wheat has been matched by an increment in stocks held by the five major exporting countries. On June