

Wheat Export Prices

producing the world's finest wheat at low cost, now be told he must hold the bag? The government should take over the surplus wheat and pay the farmer the price he would have received if the government's incompetence had not allowed the price to drop. The farmer should be paid, say, \$1.65 a bushel and the wheat should be stored in government granaries. In a year, two years or three years, when wheat is once again in worldwide demand, the government could sell it and get its money back. The government is acting as though it is up to the farmer to sell his wheat. It is not, it is up to the government. The farmer has grown the wheat, now let the government do its part.

• (11:30 p.m.)

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, we are discussing one of the most crucial problems that confront the Canadian economy today. My remarks will be brief because the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew (Mr. McBride) seems to indicate that he wishes to participate.

In discussing this subject we are talking about the livelihood, not of just a few hundred or a few thousand people, but literally tens of thousands of people in western Canada. The International Grains Arrangement breakdown is not going to help them but will increase the danger that each and every one of them is facing. Yesterday was one of the most important days in the history of mankind. Mankind finally realized a dream that has existed for centuries. Man perfected his technology and skill, reached out and landed on the moon. We hope that within the next couple of days a successful return to earth will be achieved. I think all of us would want to congratulate those involved in this mission, but I hope that this great achievement in technology, science, cybernation and so on can be translated into the commencement of a new chapter in moral and social improvement the world over.

I have often said, both in this chamber and outside, that it is something of a contradiction that we are able to land a man on the moon but yet we are unable to sell grain. It is even more ironic that although we cannot sell our grain, half the people in the world are either starving or suffering from malnutrition. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) talked of this earlier this evening. This situation creates a certain unrest and alienation in the world today. When people are hungry

[Mr. Paproski.]

they are not happy, and this leads to restlessness and rebellion. It opens the door to war, revolution and so on. We, in Canada possess one of the best means of promoting friendship—food, bushels of grain. Yet we are sitting here tonight when this country has a surplus of about one billion bushels of grain and yet people go hungry.

This is not the result of the inefficiency of the farmers. In a recent by-election campaign in Saskatchewan I talked to dozens of farmers, and one of them who lived outside the town of Foam Lake had a 1968 Pontiac parked in his driveway without any licence plates. When I asked him why the car was not licensed, he said that he did not have the money, though he had 17,000 bushels of unsold grain in his bins. This is one illustration of the situation of some of those who live in the west and gives those who have not visited the west some idea of conditions there.

The leader of my party mentioned the fact that a year or so ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of this country told the farmers: "You grow the grain and we'll sell it". During his recent trip out west he said that the government could not sell any more grain so our farmers should not grow it. That statement came from the Prime Minister, who, not long before, had talked about hypocrisy. If that attitude is not one of sheer hypocrisy I do not know one that is. That suggestion, coming from the leader of the nation, the Prime Minister, was one of sheer hypocrisy. The Prime Minister is supposed to be an example to us all.

The farmers are efficient and are growing grain. May I read a few sentences from a statement made by a representative of the farmers' union to the government at Ottawa on May 5 of this year. The statement concerned grain policy and reads in part:

Grain farmers on the prairies face a serious income crisis in 1969. Inadequate levels of efficiency and productivity cannot be described as a cause for the income problem which currently faces the wheat grower.

In the five-year crop period 1958-59 to 1962-63, the average wheat production of prairie farmers was 1,965 bushels. In the five-year crop period 1963-64 to 1967-68, this average had increased to 3,322 bushels. This represents an increase of 69% in the average of the past five years over the average of the previous five years—

Those words indicate the sort of person who lives in western Canada today. Our farmers have fundamental problems. It is not their fault these problems have arisen. The