

*Grain Shipments*

proud to be a member of my party and to be associated with the mover of the motion.

We are pleased that the strike has been settled, but we are not pleased at the number of strikes taking place in Canada. All members receive mail complaining about our great numbers of strikes. I agree that you cannot legislate workers back to work. We must consider the cause of our strikes.

The ministry asks for our suggestions, but there is not a single cabinet minister here to listen to us. The government argues that strikes must take their course. We say the people of the country are entitled to leadership in the resolution of strikes. This debate has had a therapeutic effect on negotiations on the west coast. On learning that parliament might act, the parties came to an agreement. Even government supporters agree that strikes are a futile exercise.

**Mr. Benjamin:** That's a lot of crap.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** The hon. member just used a euphemism describing members of the NDP.

According to the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* of March 4, 1975, the Minister of Justice said that the strike is too costly a weapon for us to put up with, and he said strikes often produce serious economic loss that leaves everyone poorer. He referred to the current strike of some civil servants that had stopped certain prairie grain movements.

**Mr. Benjamin:** What about the role of management in strikes?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** As the hon. member knows, management and labour are the two components in the situation. I am not blaming one side or the other. When I talk about management I mean the government. No management group has been more incompetent than the government has been.

● (0210)

I know the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, as well as other responsible spokesmen for agriculture in Western Canada, has been calling on the government to act to end the strike. In the time I have been here the government has acted once to legislate to halt a particular strike affecting the wheat delivery system. At that time the government appointed a commissioner to investigate management and labour problems in the grain handling operation in Vancouver. A distinguished jurist, Mr. Justice Bayda, was appointed. That appointment was made in October, six months ago. I have asked the Acting Minister of Labour to tell us the standing of this investigation. Over a week ago he undertook to determine precisely what was happening with respect to the work of this commissioner, but so far no answer to my inquiry has been forthcoming, no indication as to the progress of the study.

We are dealing here with a commission which has been asked to make recommendations with respect to the grain handling system. Has the commission not been given the necessary resources to fulfil its task? Are we allowing the commissioner to drift along and take his time? I know he would prefer to get the job done. He said, when appointed,

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

that he expected his report to come down within six months. Yet we hear no word about what is taking place.

This is an area to which the government should be giving great attention instead of allowing the present system to carry on to the detriment of the western farmer. The government should be supporting these studies to the fullest possible extent and giving every assistance to the investigation of the problem in long range terms.

If Mr. Justice Bayda is investigating this matter it is germane to our debate tonight. The minister responsible should tell us when we can expect his report and recommendations. I am disappointed that there has been no mention of this important investigation. I look forward to seeing the results of the work of this commissioner. I look forward to recommendations which will allow grain deliveries to continue while ensuring that those employed in the industry are getting a fair and reasonable remuneration for their services. I believe that is the wish of everyone in the House.

What has been said tonight about the serious effects of strikes on the grain industry is well founded. I do not think we on this side are interested in speaking about it in the sense that we want to encourage damage to the grain industry. We are all interested in promoting that industry and would be extremely happy if we had a vibrant and successful agricultural industry. We are conscious of our responsibility as agriculturalists. We are living in a starving world. We have the responsibility to ensure that we try to serve the needs of the people of the world.

I shall end my remarks with a request to the government that it make information available at the earliest date with respect to the study being carried on by Mr. Justice Bayda so that we may help supply a reasonable solution to this perplexing problem.

**Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, although the hour is late—

Some hon. Members: No, no!

**Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** —I am pleased to see my favourite constituent in the gallery.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** And I am pleased to see another constituent from the neighbouring riding of Medicine Hat.

**Mr. Benjamin:** He is kind of a half-decent fellow.

**Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** I want to thank my hon. friend from Vancouver South for introducing this motion. I am taking part in this debate because of the great concern felt by the citizens of western Canada over this issue. I am not getting letters and calls about little things like not being able to deliver to a country elevator. People are concerned about what is happening to the country. They ask "Where are we going?" We are in a real mess now. Grain movement on the Pacific Coast has been at a standstill for 42 per cent of the time during this crop year, yet we hear the same old arguments from the government. It is hogwash as far as my people are concerned.