

general approach to prairie farmers in October, 1970. The bill containing the formal proposal appeared in this House for first reading on April 29. The hon. member for Calgary North, who learned his law at a great law school, recited the statutes but he did not have the fairness to admit that the moment Bill C-244 is enacted into law, the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act is repealed effective July 31, 1970 and \$100 million can be paid out to the farmers. Farmers would then be far better off than if anything else had been done in this area for them.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lang:** Hon. members opposite saw before this House three important pieces of legislation directly related to grain appearing for first reading, for second reading and for further processing during the course of April and May of last year. What did they do? In the case of the cash advance legislation, they spoke for something like three days of House time, valuable as it is, saying one after another that they agreed with the bill, but saying it for three days. That is the kind of approach that they take to House time in terms of delaying. They knew they were delaying the bill which was to come next, which was Bill C-244. Look at the record on Bill C-244—once again meandering speeches not dealing with the merits of the bill but dealing with the agricultural situation generally and going on for days. Then, in committee, we witnessed delaying tactics such as one had never seen before.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Vegreville wishes to rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I wonder if the minister would agree to point out to hon. members that a mere 12 hours was spent on Bill C-244 in the House and something like—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lang:** I can only gather—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Battle River rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Downey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering, Sir, if it is not within your power to protect the members of this House from this distortion of fact and this inconsequential drivel.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. With respect I might indicate to the hon. members who have risen on points of order that they are really questions of debate.

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

**Mr. Lang:** I think you must agree, Mr. Speaker, that this shows the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazan-

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kowski) is not in the House often enough because he does not know how many days 12 hours makes.

**An hon. Member:** Shame.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. Will the hon. member resume his seat, please.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of privilege. The dates are recorded here. I have them before me if the House would permit me to read the dates—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. I think we are embarking on a debate on points of debate, and I know that the hon. member for Vegreville will have an opportunity to speak shortly. I now recognize the minister.

**Mr. Lang:** I know that hon. members will agree that sometimes when speaking about the problems of the prairie farmer I get carried away and excite a certain amount of reaction from the other side of the House. I apologize for doing that, although the cause deserves every bit of vigour that it can be given.

When Bill C-244 finally got through committee after having been held up, particularly by members of the NDP—not those from Saskatchewan who were busy campaigning but several others who remained here from other parts of the country to block the bill we tried to move it forward in every way we knew. A technical objection by an NDP member prevented it from coming on for first and second reading in its ordinary course. Then, when we finally got to the bill on June 22, unfortunately the night before a provincial election, we moved for an extension of time, and hon. members opposite, who say they are so concerned about prairie agriculture, stood and refused to allow an extension of time that night. They refused to let the bill be debated.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Lang:** Hon. members opposite have not said yet, and I am waiting to hear from them, whether they would prefer the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act payment instead of the \$100 million payment under Bill C-244 because the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act payment, at a cost of \$60 million to the treasury, would have meant the transfer to the farmers of \$40 million in June of this year.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Put your feet on the floor and your head over the clouds.

● (9:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Lang:** The stabilization bill will mean a transfer of \$100 million. The only farmers who would be better off by the payment of the \$40 million which they would have received under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act instead of the \$100 million they will get under Bill C-244 when it becomes law are those farmers who delivered in 1969-70 over 10,000 bushels of wheat. Only those with the