

The Address—Mr. F. Côté

feed grain in eastern Canada, unemployment insurance for farm workers.

As for pressures, I exerted some myself, since I was an official in my own professional association and I cannot understand how those who, today, understand fully the farmers' problems, seem to be anxious to help them but did not understand them while they had the opportunity, when we voiced our requests; today, we are faced with a kind of understanding which seems to stem from the change of government.

Therefore, it is difficult for us, from the rural areas, to know exactly what is going on. That is why I am proud to be here, to find out what really happened and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I could, on a number of occasions, have risen on specific points as I stated before, but I chose to wait and try to understand, and today the light is bright enough.

I would now like to add a few words, not as a Liberal member or as a representative of a Liberal party, but as a farmer.

I heard a little while ago a member asking the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) whether he knew about a date; he mentioned May 24.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking all the hon. members not to use the agricultural class, the farmers, as a political football. The producers of manufacturing milk will perhaps be coming here, in the national capital, to voice their needs and not do as many may think, that is to criticize the government. On the contrary, farmers are more intelligent than that. They will support this government in its efforts to help them in the face of all other classes of society.

• (4:10 p.m.)

And I would not want to see somebody rise in some corner of the house and try to prove that the march that the farmers are going to make on Ottawa is a strong criticism of the whole government policy. I was surprised at the comments of those who did not understand us. In fact, it is said that it would not be logical for the government not to grant \$5 per hundredweight. But if we farmers had asked for \$6, there is no doubt that some hon. members would have risen and said: It takes \$6. If we had asked for \$7, others would have risen and said: It takes \$7. And had we asked for \$8, perhaps the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) would have risen and said: It takes \$8. But that is not what we farmers are asking for.

We are only asking to be able to live like the other classes of society. We are, I think

[Mr. Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska).]

among those who were elected to administer Canada. We must remember that within that same Canada there is what is called the rural community. And it may be the social class which contributes the most to the country's economic progress.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska): I would like it to be understood on both sides of the house that if we of the government party, who administer the business of Canada, are responsible for deciding that such or such a thing must be done, then we must also decide where the money will come from. We must also ask ourselves what will be the repercussions of this or that step we will take. It is not for us only a matter of saying: We must do this. No, we must administer and to administer means to anticipate.

When I think that the farm income has increased in the past three years and a half and reading over the speech from the throne, I have no hesitation in visiting every part of our rural areas, because farmers are aware of what the government has done for them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska): I should not want to overlook a certain part in the speech from the throne, the one about our relations with foreign countries. In fact, I am happy to note that in the field of diplomacy, Canada will stress its efforts, particularly through the United Nations, to promote world peace. That long-sought peace, we have experienced it, so to speak, on the opening day of Expo 67 when everybody rejoiced.

At the Place des Nations, after the usual speeches and the official opening by His Excellency the Governor General, as every country taking part in this great world event was named, we could see floating in the blue sky the flag symbolizing its pride. All participating countries were named. The last one was ours, and our flag, the flag of all Canadians was raised to the sound of cheers. Then a complete silence ensued. Perhaps everyone present was meditating on his participation in that world event. And this joy through which we have lived, Mr. Speaker, we owe it to a great Canadian, the hon. Prime Minister of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska): We also owe it to the Liberal members who have fought