

*Business of Supply*

available for grain storage, its failure to provide adequate additional facilities, its failure to adopt and implement a system of payments for the resulting storage of grain on farm lands, by reason of which failures the farm grain economy and dependent industries are suffering serious and continuing harm.

He said: Mr. Speaker, a press release on December 5 last, issued by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang), stated in part:

On October 15th of this year the Prime Minister announced that the complexities of international grain marketing problems combined with the importance of the grain trade to the Canadian economy, had led to the decision to make grain marketing a focus of effort by a minister without general departmental responsibilities.

This seemed to send off the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang). It was like a quotation from Shakespeare. We knew there was thunder and lightning. We knew there were announcements, with heralds, and there was a blast—

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Of hot air.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I suppose of hot air, and the minister made his entry. Since then, we have had occasion to observe his operations.

I think he wanted to impress the world with the fact that he had just entered the ministry, but if he has impressed the world he certainly has not done anything for the western farmer. He has not done anything to put a few dollars in his pocket. Oh yes, Mr. Speaker, after that he made a few announcements.

He cushioned the blow for the Wheat Board. He cushioned the blow for the railways. He cushioned the blow for himself. He set up a grains group, and this group was to take the brunt of the attack. After a series of mishaps last year the Wheat Board reckoned that it had better clear itself, and the railways wanted the minister to make their lives a lot easier in connection with arranging their box car allocations.

The importance of my motion may well be emphasized by the questions that were asked in this House last week. Anyone who cares to look at *Hansard* will notice that not only did the Official Opposition ask questions pertaining to this particular problem but so did the NDP. Even supporters of the government asked questions pertaining to this problem. I say, good for them. But where does it end? Does it stop with a question or can we expect members of the government to emphasize their concern by voting in favour of this motion? I hope that the NDP would show

their concern by voting for it. I also hope that members of other opposition parties would show their concern in other parts of this country where there are difficulties. Many members must have had questions asked of them during the Christmas recess and I hope they take the opportunity to express their concern by way of a vote. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was in western Canada last year he was peppered with a little bit of wheat but that is a small inconvenience for a public man to suffer when you consider the difficulties encountered by most of the people in western Canada. To a large extent, the difficulties stem from the action of this and the previous government.

When people tell me that they can no longer borrow money at 5 per cent interest, I remind them that it was the Liberal government that insisted it was going to make borrowing easier. I am a farmer myself and my operation requires a lot of financing but I cannot borrow money at 5 per cent any longer. Farmers are renewing their notes.

There was a series of articles in the *Toronto Star* setting out some of the farmers' difficulties. When the Minister without Portfolio was appointed his seat mate said, "You know, the east does not understand the west." The minister's big role was to convince the east that they had to understand the west. He did make an announcement to the effect that he would be the champion of the western farmer.

I have been through a few campaigns in my day and one of the criticisms levelled during them was that I did not know enough members on the government side. After all, Saskatchewan used to send 17 members into the House of Commons but with a Liberal government we did not get an opportunity to express our point of view to the cabinet. Now, we have that opportunity and what a wonderful thing it is except that mum's the word.

Instead of sending boxcars to pick up the wheat, the minister sends inspectors with the RCMP. At the Lakehead there is space available for 70 million bushels and this represents almost a one bushel quota per farmer. When you consider that the grain from the western half of the province of Saskatchewan will be shipped to the west coast, it represents more than a one bushel quota. Yes, there would be approximately 85 billion bushels taken in on the one bushel quota. The grain from the eastern half of the province would be taken to the Lakehead and Churchill.