

Withholding of Grain Payments

There is no doubt in my mind that the Prairies are getting the short end of the stick. Western Canada is getting the short end of the stick. The government can have all the regional fiscal policies it likes, but I wonder why the Minister of Finance is not paying these bills.

Mr. Stanfield: He is breaking the law.

Mr. Horner: He is breaking the law. Also, he does not like the Prairies. In front of 40 other people last June the minister told me that he did not give an s-h-i-t about the Prairies.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Horner: In front of 40 other people in the room he said loudly that he did not give an s-h-i-t. Is there any doubt about why he does not make payments, with that kind of attitude? If that attitude continues there is no recourse for western Canada but to separate. I do not want to separate. I am a Canadian. The roots of the Horner family are well founded all across Canada. They are well founded in the province of Quebec and there is a member of my family in nearly every province. How can you expect to have a vibrant, growing, industrious, energetic part of Canada when it is not being treated fairly by Ottawa? What can you expect, when the Minister of Finance makes remarks like that to me in front of 40 other people? How can western Canada be expected to absorb that? This bill deliberately flaunts the law.

Mr. Deachman: The word is "flout".

Mr. Horner: I ask every member of this House to answer this question. If the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act had anything to do with money for the province of Quebec, would the government not be paying it? I ask every member to answer this question from his heart. I have to say yes, the government would be paying it or bringing in another act to make another payment. Let us be truthful.

Mr. Lang: I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question.

Mr. Horner: When I am through you may ask a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is the minister rising on a point of order?

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to know if I could ask a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): It does not seem the hon. member will permit a question.

Mr. Horner: A surcharge was recently placed on goods entering the United States. What did the government do? It made available \$80 million for industry, most of which is located in central Canada. It has not brought in any measure for the agricultural industry. The minister made a great speech. He said the government is going to do something with the stabilization board. The government has not done anything with the stabilization board since it took over. They dropped the demands on the steel and ship industries. They have not done anything for the agricultural industry to meet the surcharge. The effect of the surcharge upon the agricultural industry are well known.

Mr. Stanfield: They are stabilizing poverty.

Mr. Horner: They are stabilizing poverty and they are stabilizing the growth of western Canada. They are not helping it in any way, shape or form. There is no doubt that the government is oriented to helping eastern Canada. It does not give one hoot about western Canada. The government does not even care about the lumber and timber industry in British Columbia. It has made no attempt to help out the pulp industry today which is mainly centered in the two extremities of Canada. It has been concerned about the niceties.

As a Canadian taxpayer, I can honestly say that the amount of money that the government is pouring into Quebec is paying off. There is some levelling of unemployment in that province. I hope they can sustain that situation. In 1968 the government said to the people of Canada that unity was the question confronting our country. It then came forward with a regional fiscal policy and deliberately flaunted the law and did not put money into any region.

Mr. Deachman: "Flout", not "flaunt".

Mr. Horner: Flout. You fellows do not pay any attention whatsoever. The government deliberately breaks the law. The insult of all insults was when the Minister of Finance, who has a responsibility to obey the law, told me in front of 40 people that he did not give an s-h-i-t for the Prairies.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

An hon. Member: You have already said that.

Mr. Horner: I may say it several more times. I am going to Assiniboia next week, and I will also say it there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: The time has come for stool-pigeons like the Minister of Agriculture. He is just a "stoolie" running around trying to please the Prime Minister. I was disappointed in the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Sulatycky). He made a speech tonight in which he said nothing, really. I suppose he is vying for a job as parliamentary secretary.

• (9:10 p.m.)

I feel sorry for the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner). He just sits there looking like a good boy, probably because he thinks the mantle of power will be assigned to him as long as he keeps his hands clean. Why does he not defend the law? He calls for a great seminar on the law. He outlines the plenary sessions and the workshop sessions which are to be held—"Sex and the family and the law", "The media and the law". Purely seeking publicity for himself, that is all he is doing. He does not really mean to accomplish anything. If he did, there would be one other subject there—"Government and the law."

The chicken-and-egg war was the result of the government's failure to uphold the law. The government is making every chicken producer and every egg producer battle the law for them. The British North America Act is the constitution of this country. It is the duty of the Minister of Justice to see that the law is upheld. But he sits there with his hands folded and tries to remove him-