

mately \$400 million a year, and today it is around \$8 billion to \$9 billion a year.

● (1610)

When I rose in this House a few days ago and asked the Prime Minister when he was in Venezuela if he had time to speak to the Venezuelans, thanking them for buying the goods from the People's Republic of China so that the People's Republic of China could get the Canadian dollars the Venezuelans have from our oil purchases to help pay for our wheat, he said, "Yes. I had the time but I did not know about it." This is symptomatic of the complete failure of the government in the past 12 years to face up to the fact that trade is not a two-way street. It is not just a question of travelling around, saying hello and being nice and setting up trade offices. Somebody has to do things to make trade work. You need that type of institution. These things have developed over the years, and the new nations now call it the new economic order. I am saying to the government that if it wants ideas, the ideas have been here for years if it wants to use them. But the performance has not only been nil; it has been negative.

There are other things that should be kept in mind. Our own companies are negligent in Canada. Too many of them have thought their only job was to sell to the local city. Too many of them have never bothered going into the export market. The hon. member for York-Simcoe mentioned that we are now in the age of a need for food.

How many people remember the Favex group of the fruit and vegetable people who set up an export company and went out and peddled Canadian fruit and vegetables under one trade name? What happened to Favex? It stopped operating the minute the Diefenbaker government disappeared, because no one was there to push it. Some will remember the name of Excan where, under the pressure of the people on this side, the four big pools in western Canada formed an export company to sell Canadian grain. How much have they sold? I would think I would be safe in saying nil, because there is nobody there to push it. It is willing to sell if it has the push put to it. I would say simply that if you want to push Canadian companies into action, all you have to do to Excan is say, "Here is a \$50 million guarantee. Go out and peddle this stuff. You can meet the Americans with a better quality of wheat, and you can take any share of the market that you want, but get out there and sell it." I summarize that point by saying simply that this world is desperately in need of food and fibre, and that is the challenge before not only our agricultural industry but our forestry industry as well.

I know the present Liberal government, in its defence, will come along and say it has sent trade missions all over the world. I have followed the progress of these trade missions as well as most members of this House. I know they are good things. I have watched the work of the Export Development Corporation and I know it is doing some good things. However, when I think of all the things that could be done, I am just appalled. The basic complaint I have against the government is that it cannot get away from its basic love of restrictions. I remember in 1970, at a time when it was clear that the world was in desperate need for grain, this government believed in the reports of its own experts and applied the LIFT program to all farmers. Ministers stood in their place and said we had to stop

### *Productivity and Trade*

all farmers producing wheat that year. Today we cannot even meet the market needs.

Last Friday the minister announced outside the House a 35-million bushel sale of wheat to China. He was overjoyed at this sale. That sale of wheat to China was made under the original agreement of 1961. The Chinese would take more wheat if they could get it, but we do not have it because our reserves are at the lowest point in years.

All I am really trying to ask is, with all these opportunities, what is the government doing? For example, when is it going to get the co-operatives in Canada to go out and visit Chinese trade fairs twice a year and make sure all the goods they can sell in Canada are bought in China in order to help the farmers sell their wheat? Simpson's has moved, Eaton's has moved, but no hardware company has gone out into this area yet. There are lots of opportunities, but somebody has to put the sock to these companies in order to make them move.

We consume about \$20 million worth of rice a year in Canada. Where do we buy that rice? I suggest we buy it from Louisiana and California. We can get just as good rice, but cheaper in China. No one does a thing about pushing people out there to bring it in, because all our companies that distribute rice in Canada are controlled by the holding companies that own the rice farms in Louisiana and California. This is why we need national selling and buying companies to get around these bottlenecks that some monopolistic business has set up in this world.

As the hon. member for York-Simcoe mentioned, here we are trying to get our export industries to help save us by getting rid of these deficits, but this government, with its love of restrictions, last fall at Thanksgiving not only put the chop to labour and businessmen but it put on an export tax. I was the member of parliament who on November 4 got up and asked the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) about this small little item I saw in the Thanksgiving statement on price and wage controls. I warned the businessmen and the labour unions that they had better get together if they were going to save jobs for the people of Canada and give Canadians a chance to compete. Thanks to those labour men and businessmen—and, above all, thanks to the provinces—they showed this government the error of its ways and we had this retreat by the Minister of Finance last week that I described as Napoleonic. The Prime Minister, who indicates his fantasies too openly, mentioned Austerlitz. I just wonder what happens when the Prime Minister lets his fantasies go to the end of the dream. We know what happens to those men who take a revolutionary government or a free government and make it into a dictatorship.

This government is married to restrictions. In 1974, after fighting a campaign across this country against the Conservatives who only advocated a 90-day freeze and only a few selective controls out of which we could get immediately, the Liberals gave their pledge to the people of Canada that they would not go into wage and price controls. They frightened the workingman, got him to vote for them and then betrayed him with these wage and price controls. I know that this love of restrictions the government has is not only unfair to labour and unfair to business but it is unfair to the whole country. It is putting a