

Farm Credit Act

these bills propose, shows a complete disregard for the efforts the farmers put forth. At the same time it indicates a complete disregard for both the economic factors and the importance of agriculture to the economy of this nation.

At a time when our wheat carryover is nearly 700 million bushels, and when there is no indication from the government of any likelihood of a sale to Russia or China, no sign of active interest by the minister and no realization by the government of the serious economic situation which will result from the failure to sell our wheat, the government comes along with this solution to soak the farmer. This is a rather easy way of dealing with the problem. Shortly we will have a budget in which, no doubt, everyone will be soaked. It will be a sort of stormy weather budget. However, the government is not waiting for that budget; it is going to soak the farmer now.

We all know that when there is a Liberal government in power the western farmers suffer, the east coast fishermen suffer and the urban poor suffer. We know also that under the Liberal government in 1957 wheat piled up so high it could have been used for the Olympic games. We are back in that situation now. I invite the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) to come with me to Alberta, or anywhere in western Canada, and view the situation at first hand. The problem is urgent and something must be done to move our wheat or to see that our farmers are provided with cash in order to meet their obligations, rather than being prosecuted for delivering grain over their quota. This indicates the desperation of these farmers at this time. Let me illustrate. The Wheat Pool Budget of October 4, under the heading "Quota Situation", reports:

The grain delivery quota situation across the prairies as at September 30, showed a large number of stations still on initial unit quotas. No stations had yet reached 2 bushels per specific acre.

Let me turn now to farm stored grain. This report reads:

Stocks of wheat held on Alberta farms at July 31 were considerably above levels of the past three years, and the 1957-68 average.

For example, referring to wheat specifically, I point out that the average amount in farm storage between the years 1958-67 was 28.5 million bushels. This year it is 52 million bushels. Turning to barley, the average amount in farm storage during 1958-67 was

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

20.8 million bushels. Today it stands at 29 million bushels. We are further warned by the president of United Grain Growers that there is little likelihood of the 1968-69 crop year delivery quota exceeding five bushels per specified acre. The best wheat growers can hope to realize by next May, he said, is \$10 an acre, out of which the farmer has to pay his food and clothing bills, this fall's taxes, his machinery repairs, his fuel and fertilizer bills, and in many cases his Farm Credit Corporation mortgage.

May I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that it is the duty of the government to provide the climate and the opportunity which will ensure profitable markets for the crops this country's farmers produce. In 1966 we were told by the wheat experts that the Canadian farmer could look forward with a degree of optimism to a strong market for high quality Canadian wheat. At the same time the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was forecasting wheat exports in the neighbourhood of 475 million to 550 million bushels through to 1970. We were further told that Canada's future problem would not be a lack of grain markets abroad but rather an inability to meet export demands. As a matter of fact, a well known agricultural economist said that Canada, in order to meet its share of world markets, would be required to produce some 700 million bushels in 1970, 850 million in 1975 and 1 billion by 1980.

But what has happened? The latest figures from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate that our wheat exports in 1967-68 have fallen to 335 million bushels. This is almost the lowest level in the past ten years. Why has this happened? It has happened because this government lacked imagination and foresight in developing an active, aggressive wheat selling campaign. They have failed to expand the sales force to meet the challenge of available markets and have lost a good portion of our traditional markets. They have failed to face up to aggressive competition from other countries and react in a business-like manner.

United States wheat producers, through a market developing organization, are developing and servicing markets for their wheat in Asia. They have been active in Japan for ten years and have several Japanese firms working for them. The program of this organization includes training in the latest techniques of bread and pastry production, exchange visits of industry and government personnel, campaigns to improve nutritional standards