

[English]

Mr. Alkenbrack: I am indeed gratified that my remarks are causing some reaction in the Liberal ranks. I am sure the Minister of Agriculture knows what I am about to say. I do not have to quote the origin of my information, but I got it not very far from where I got the other. There is an immediate danger that an estimated 40,000 hogs could be prematurely dumped and sacrificed on an already sluggish market as a result of this illegal deprivation of feed to the farmers resulting from the action of the longshoremen. Does anybody want to contest that statement? Yet the government still does nothing.

About a month ago we had a similar situation on the west coast, the stoppage of our world grain trade by the grain handlers in Vancouver. This stoppage went on for more than three months and the government would not act. The official opposition acted. We forced a debate on the question, and while it was going on a settlement was reached. But it took two weeks more of procrastination and protest to get the grain handlers back to work and the grain moving.

We now have a similar situation, this time in the east. So far the government has done nothing. It says it is studying the situation. I hope it is. It is waiting to read the temperature—Celsius—of the farmers of Quebec. If anything is done the opposition deserves top marks and credit for standing up tonight for justice for the Quebec farmer in this ill-defined just society, headed by a Liberal government which refuses so frequently to govern. Even with a clear majority it still refuses to govern.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): You are still living back in 1958.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Let me remind them that the clear majority granted to them was granted in good part by the farmers of Quebec, which is part of their power base.

Tonight the cabinet is watching the press and the level of publicity from this debate. Last night's *Ottawa Journal* had this to say. There was a report headed "Cabinet may order men back" and it went on to say:

The cabinet is studying the possibility of forcing striking Quebec longshoremen back to work, Prime Minister Trudeau said Tuesday.

I hope it is, and that it has the guts to do it. What is there to study? All the cabinet need do is act and legislate the longshoremen back to work. If it cannot do this, then it could order an injunction giving needy farmers and their starving cattle, hogs and poultry access to the grain supplies in the Quebec elevators which are so fanatically and illegally picketed, thus withholding grain from the public. This reminds me of the ancient Bishop Hatto of Bingen who would give his hungry people no food.

I call upon the Prime Minister, the cabinet, and government benches, on behalf of the Quebec farmers and feeders, to put an end to this impasse by seeing to it that feed is provided to the livestock of Quebec farmers. In yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen* there was a picture with a news item showing Quebec trucks lined up at the Prescott elevator to load up with feed grains to be transported to Quebec to help in this serious situation. As a member representing the riding of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington in eastern Ontario, I hope our Prescott elevator supplies help allevi-

Feed Grain

ate the shortage and play a helpful role. But there are, of course, limits to supply, and Quebec's problem this week could become our problem in Ontario next week. Then if we run out of grain and the longshoremen, abetted by this do-nothing Liberalism here on Parliament Hill, continue to control the situation and feed remains unavailable in Trois-Rivières, Quebec and Montreal, most of eastern Canada will then be helpless and immobilized as far as this phase of our food production is concerned.

The government has a duty to perform, which is to stop this illegal sideshow run by the longshoremen's union at the elevators in Quebec. Their strike is no doubt a legal one, but their action in picketing grain suppliers is illegal. They are not classed as grain handlers, and their action is victimizing the farmers and feeders of the province of Quebec, starving their livestock and crippling and disrupting the production of food in this country. This must be stopped—immediately, forthwith, and now. I call upon our philosophic Prime Minister, his supine cabinet and his bewildered and misled followers, to govern themselves accordingly and move to alleviate this hardship and injustice that is being perpetrated upon the farmers and feeders of the province of Quebec.

● (0200)

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, after six hours of debate that I watched with interest, you will understand no doubt that I will try to limit my intervention in a gesture of friendship for my colleagues on this side of the House in particular who described the situation in great detail and explained to all members of this House that their colleagues on the government side were unanimous in deploring the urgency of the situation and the importance of finding a solution in the near future.

During this debate, Madam Speaker, I was particularly struck by the extremely sensible comments about Quebecers by my colleagues of the official opposition. And if I recall, a few years ago when the party opposite was in power, I was not a member of this House but I was nevertheless following what was happening here in the House of Commons and for having consulted abundantly the pieces of legislation that were passed at that time I remember quite well that eastern Canada and eastern farmers did not obtain to the best of my recollection legislations suited to the needs of Quebec farmers. Without wanting to pass any final judgement, perhaps I might be permitted to consider and hear with a little skepticism that sudden interest and somewhat extreme manifestation from members opposite for Quebec farmers.

I remember a few minutes ago, or let us rather say a few hours ago, hearing a member of the Official Opposition who did us the courtesy of saying a few words in French, but I must add that those few words in French indicated to me rather clearly that if he had a certain, at least apparent, respect for one of the official languages which is that of the man talking to you, there was a rather obvious lack of understanding of what is a French-Speaking Canadian and the way he acts in politics.

I think our friends opposite too often identify the activities of Quebec members with bombastic speeches and