

grams and the policies we announced in the 1988 election.

What we have finally seen from this Tory government is a conference earlier this year. Now, finally, we hear from the Minister of Agriculture that he wants some permanent programs. He is tired of these *ad hoc* programs. It has been in power now for almost six years, and it is too long. Why did it not introduce such a program in 1984 or 1985? Where has it been?

When we hear the indications, and we see the signs of where this Tory government is going and where it is leading western agriculture, it scares me even further. When it talks about a permanent program, it means a permanent program where the market has a total determining force. It wants to do away with orderly marketing. It wants to do away with the Wheat Board. We saw this during the free trade debate.

We know where the Tories are headed and what their farm program is. They would strip western agriculture of all those institutions that we have built up over the years, those programs that the pioneers in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta have fought for. These are the programs that the predecessors of my party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, with the co-op movement and the pools have built together. These are what former Tory and Liberal governments, and people such as John Diefenbaker and Jimmy Gardner have made in their days to develop institutions which would provide some protection to our western farmers. The agenda of this government is to strip western Canada and our western Canadian farmers of those institutions that were developed to protect them.

The government says, of course, that it has given all these nice grants. It has given all these nice billions of dollars of bail-out. However, it also fails to mention the increased charges that it has levied on the farm community or the cut-backs to existing programs.

For example, in the province of Saskatchewan this year, farm policy by this government will cost Saskatchewan farmers some \$825 million. The drop in initial prices alone accounts for \$550 million. The FCC interest rate increases account for \$35 million. The loss of two-price wheat accounts for \$127 million. The crop insurance premiums account for \$55 million. The reduction in

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federal farm-fuel rebates is \$25 million. The increase in grain freight rates is \$19 million. The elimination of the interest-free cash advance is \$14 million. These add up to a figure of \$825 million that will be taken out of the farmers' pockets because of the policies of this government this year.

Do not tell me what a great friend of the farmers these Tories are. They might put some of the change back in one pocket, but, my gosh, they have got the hands in another pocket and they are taking it out of the farmers' pockets at the same time as they are taking it out of the taxpayers' pockets all over.

My colleagues have mentioned the goods and services tax. The minister says that in the end the farmer will get it all back. Let us hope that is true. Is it not ironic that the government is now asking the farmers to collect its taxes? Of course, when they collect its taxes and pay for it, they are not getting any interest on that. In fact, the farmers are giving the government an interest-free cash advance while the government has taken the interest-free cash advance away from the farmers. Is it not ironic that the great friends of the farmers, the people who understand the farmers, are now taking the cash advance out of the farm community through the goods and services tax?

We need a government that is willing to make a commitment and that will stand up for western agriculture. We need a government that will indeed recognize that its policies, whether on international trade or interest rate policies, are having an adverse affect.

• (1710)

I heard the minister responsible for the Wheat Board talk about interest rates and how we need to bring our inflation down. Let me tell him, we do not have much inflation in Regina. We do not have much inflation in Indian Head, Strasbourg or Ituna. Houses there cost next to nothing. The value of real estate in Regina and all those communities has continually decreased.

There is no inflation when it comes to the value of farmland. There might be some inflation in Toronto and Vancouver, but we want a government that also knows the needs of prairie farmers and will devise policies that will help them and that will not stop inflation in Toronto