

down to at least \$15 million or \$16 million, if he were prepared to fill the storage available in western Canada—available, that is, in the commercial storage space on the Prairies, on the coast and at the Lakehead. But he has deliberately kept that storage empty.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Many farmers are asking this question. One could answer that the government want to collect the higher interest rate proposed in this bill. I do not really believe that is the case, though it might be a political answer.

I think they want approval to remove the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. They want to be able to say, on July 31, "The Temporary Wheat Reserves Act is nothing. It did not really do much good and it has been reduced from a \$40 million normal payment to something like \$20 million. The opposition is completely wrong in advocating that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act not be done away with."

What have we to say with regard to grain in storage? Do we need it in storage or not? It is interesting to note that on March 15, 1971, I put the following question to the minister:

I have a supplementary question with regard to grain sales for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister inform the House whether the additional 10 cents per bushel for barley is bringing in the required amount of barley or are we still turning down sales requests?

Disregard the last part of the question and consider the first, where I asked if this program was bringing in the necessary amount of barley so that quotas would be available to the producers. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is in charge of the Wheat Board, at page 4252 of *Hansard* had this to say:

The flow of barley is stepping up. We hope it will continue to increase. There is space available in some provinces where there are also significant barley quotas available. We are therefore urging the farmers to deliver the grain because—

I emphasize the word "because" Mr. Speaker.

—because the Wheat Board would like to see the flow of barley established before it makes additional sales.

In other words, the Wheat Board was not prepared to make additional sales until it had the grain in storage. I see the minister shakes his head in a negative manner. I would be pleased to see him stand in this House and correct my interpretation of his words. But now can one misinterpret those words on page 4252 of *Hansard* when he said—

Mr. Lang: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Horner: Fine.

Mr. Lang: I wonder whether the hon. member can notice the distinction between the words "until the flow of grain is established" and the words "until the grain is in storage"?

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, I never was much for being—

Mr. Lang: For being accurate.

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

Mr. Horner: —picayune about words, but let me explain to the minister the meaning of the words, "We are therefore urging the farmers to deliver the grain". Let me just go that far. These are his words, not mine. Now he wants delivery. We have come that far. Every farmer in this House could deliver his grain. Let's go a little further, "—because the Wheat Board would like to see the flow of barley established before it makes additional sales." I emphasize the word "before"—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but I do so to advise him that the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Horner: In light of the clock, I wonder if I could request—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member may continue if there is unanimous consent. It is impossible for the Chair to determine whether there is unanimous consent unless I am given an opportunity to hear. Is there such unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the position the clock is in and I will take only a few more moments. Let there be no misunderstanding of the minister's statement on March 15, 1971, found at page 4252 of *Hansard* when he said, "We are therefore urging the farmers to deliver the grain because the Wheat Board would like to see—". I emphasize the word "see," meaning availability. How else can you determine the meaning of the word "see"? He continued, "—the flow of barley—", and I emphasize the word "before", "before it makes additional sales". Additional, meaning plus; something that you do not have now but you will have if you see the flow.

I say to the minister that we cannot afford to have empty storage space, because if that storage space is full we will then see the flow, know the flow and go out and make sales. Because of the empty storage space, the minister has cost the farmers of western Canada money because the sales representatives of the farmers, the Canadian Wheat Board and others, could not see the flow, did not know the flow, did not know the availability of additional grain and therefore they turned aside sales of barley. This is true of grain of all kinds, including wheat, oats, barley, rapeseed, flaxseed and rye.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

POST OFFICE—ALLEGED DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM NEW MAIL ROUTINGS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I asked the minister who is apparently in charge of the Post Office the following question:

Since new mail routings introduced by the Post Office have in many cases resulted in much slower mail service and reduced