

The Address—Mr. Lang

that was wise from a crop production point of view. It is only as 1974 approaches, and to some extent in 1973, that he wants to fertilize and once again increase production, meeting the challenge put to him in four successive years of selling more than is produced.

I understand why the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggan (Mr. Gleave) is sensitive on this subject because when I go to his constituency, as I have in the years since 1970, I find that many a farmer who listened to him in those days—as when they listened to the hon. member for Crowfoot—felt that the right thing to do then was to ignore LIFT; to do the opposite. That was the advice given by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggan but when I examined his own farming operations I found that he did not take that advice himself but followed the LIFT program and benefited from it. If he had given that kind of advice to his constituents he would not now have on his conscience the advice that he did give them.

In this Speech from the Throne we see not only these great matters which interest me from the point of view of my responsibility as minister in charge of the Wheat Board and a member of parliament from western Canada, but we see also that significant steps are being taken in the area of improving our legal and judicial system. Once again we will have before the House a series of criminal law amendments. These are important enough in themselves but perhaps they are more important as a process to which we are committed, that of a regular, ongoing reform of our criminal law.

We do not intend to wait four, eight or twelve years for changes as has been done in the past, but to respond on a more or less annual basis to the need that is felt, to bring our law up to date, to improve it or to remove anomalies from it. We will have before this House what amounts to an omnibus bill to keep up the work. We will also watch the reports from the Law Reform Commission which are continuing to flow, and will attempt to make use of the valuable advice and information that they contain in order to continue the process of law reform which this government has carried forward with such vigour in the last half dozen years.

We will also have a very important piece of legislation with the introduction of a Rights and Interests Commission at the federal level. I see a commission which will work effectively with, and as a counterpart to, those commissions which exist in the fields of human rights and ombudsman's work throughout the provinces. Work is being done in the provinces in these areas which are within provincial jurisdiction and we intend that these commissions will have a complementary body which can work in those areas, as a federal commission, which cannot be covered by existing commissions. These commissions will work closely together.

The federal commission will have as a major role the promotion of research, information, education and enlightenment in the field of human rights. It is through better understanding and a greater willingness on the part of people to be fair to others that human rights are best protected. We can create legal techniques to enforce the rights and improve the position of individuals, but in the end it is through the understanding of the great majority

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of our people, and the willingness of individuals to be fair and fair-minded that those rights are best protected.

This, Mr. Speaker, is my view of my own responsibilities and of the very exciting and vigorous amendments which will come before the House in this session as this government attempts to continue putting before parliament and the people of Canada legislation which makes and keeps Canada the great country it is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that I have had the opportunity of listening to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) take part, as have many ministers, in the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. As I heard of his great concern about the gap in credibility between western people and the government here in Ottawa, and as I heard him reread the speech of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) which listed all the things which have been done since the Western Economic Opportunities Conference of last summer, I tried to picture in my mind what it all represented.

I thought of that doctrine of the middle ages whereby you should spend your time on great academic matters. The only picture that came to mind was that of a mosquito with a wooden leg trying to bore a hole through a dill pickle. That is the measure of effectiveness of the answers of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Justice to the gap that exists between western Canadian thinking and to the actions of this government. Another picture that flew through my mind was that of a pygmy sandpapering the side of an elephant—the problem is so big. With these mosquitoes and pygmies running around talking this middle ages sterile nonsense that we have heard today, it shows better than I can how that gap will never close.

The minister spoke about his responsibilities in connection with grain and mentioned the grain stabilization bill that failed. I say to him very bluntly that whenever he brings into this House a grain stabilization bill that does not make it necessary or mandatory for the farmer to receive the share of the money he put into the fund dependent on the whims of a few civil servants, then the farmer will look at it. Any type of stabilization bill brought into this House must be based on a formula that everyone knows in advance and not, as the minister once said, upon farmers doing what they are told in order to get money out of their own fund. I think that indicates some of the reaction he is going to get from western Canada before he introduces the stabilization bill. Base it on a formula which ensures that the farmer who puts money in has the right to draw it out in certain circumstances.

The minister is sensitive to LIFT. If he wants to bridge the gap between the west and Ottawa all he has to do is say to the west and any others, "I listened to the wrong advisers; I goofed when I recommended to the government that we restrict the production of western grain and when we paid farmers not to grow things." The whole world knows that this winter between 10 million and 50 million people are in various stages of starvation. How many died we do not know. Every government which took advice on restricting production in a hungry world has committed a moral crime that people are not going to forgive. The