

The Minister of Agriculture, during the campaign, said several times that he was going to have a drought program that would put \$40 an acre into farmers' pockets. Of course that did not happen. After the campaign was over the cheques did not arrive at that level.

That is one of the reasons why farmers are now very strapped for cash and are finding it very difficult to see how they are going to operate without an interest free cash advance. Aside from the marketing problems, the storage problems and the on-farm finance problems, it creates a lot of problems for farm communities. Many suppliers were depending on receiving their payments for fertilizer and parts and chemical weed sprays in the fall when the interest free cash advance was taken out. Those people are sitting without money. Their creditors, their banks, are leaning on them too. They are saying, "Where is the money? You said it would be here in the fall when the farmers pay". So it has a real ripple effect.

We heard the Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Prime Minister, saying today in Question Period a number of times, "this government is firmly behind supply management" in response to questions from the opposition. If this government were firmly behind supply management, I cash advance program because the management of the supplies of fruit, vegetable and grains cannot take place logically without having those advances in place in order to be competitive against the Americans and the Europeans.

Later on in Question Period, we heard from the Minister of Finance saying that it has always been government policy, and the action of this government follows through, according to him, to make decisions that will permit Canadians to make their own budgeting decisions. And yet this was the Minister of Finance who did not even present a Budget on time. He presented it late. That was the first time in the history of Canada, during the course of a Parliament, that the government has done this. The country ran on Governor General's warrants for a month. There was no reason for it except that the minister did not been some indication of what the government's intention was, but the government delayed until farmers were into seeding already and had already made their borrowing arrangements with the banks.

### *Government Orders*

The decision that we are left with is one, if the government carries it through, that will be as disastrous for rural communities as was the proposal to deindex senior citizens' pensions. The government understood the pain that it was inflicting on seniors when it was conveyed to the Prime Minister in person by a little lady outside the doors of this House who stood on a box so she could be face to face with him and told him that he had lied to the senior citizens of the country when he said that the social programs were a sacred trust. By deindexing pensions he was taking money out of pensioners' pockets each year.

By taking away interest free cash advances, the government is taking money out of the pockets of the farmers of this country. It is forcing their products onto the market-place and forcing them to take a lower price than would be normal. It is forcing suppliers of farm goods and commodities at the community level to wait for their payments, and it is inflicting a good deal of pain on rural Canada because of this policy.

Oh yes, it is a good policy for the banks. The banks are going to get a little more money from interest because the rate will be slightly higher than what the Wheat Board was able to borrow the money at.

It will be good for the international grain companies because they buy supplies in Canada at a lower rate because farmers will always be forced into dumping product on the market at a lower price than they would if they could put it on in an orderly fashion under a system of marketing that takes into account the supplies in the market and allows farmers to manage those supplies, which is the whole idea behind supply management. It is bad for farmers and it is bad for rural communities but it is good for the government's friends, the banks; and it is good for the government's friends, the international grain traders.

We have not heard anything yet from the Tory premiers who I thought would have been raising a ruckus about this particular initiative by the government since it is only a few months ago that the government said that the biggest problem facing the provinces and constituents was high interest rates. Where is the first minister of Saskatchewan who is also agriculture minister? Have we heard from him about what these new interest rates will do to his farm community and farm constituents? He has been very quiet. Yet he was the same guy who led the charge on behalf of the premiers some months ago trying to get the federal government to reduce interest rates because it was harmful to the economies of the various