

*Adjournment Debate*

consistent with any kind of transportation system that we require.

To put the matter in perspective, it should be recognized that the railway system for four years in a row has managed to move more grain out of the country than has been produced and I am confident that it will do so this year as well. In the past three years, 200 million bushels more than the amount produced in those years has been disposed of, with the transportation system carrying the grain. In this year I am confident that we will move and transport more grain than producers have available, and the crop last year was the largest on prairie record.

It is quite clear that there were difficulties and we did not move as much grain in the middle of the winter as we had hoped. The difficulties were basically in three parts, as I have indicated. First of all, there was the strike which caused harm to a lot of innocent people—and I do not think the government could get into the position of picking up loose ends—and the problems that resulted from that. Secondly, I believe there was some neglect on the

part of the railways in not putting cars into the grain industry. It was only when the government requested them to put in the proper number of cars that we obtained action. Following that, winter conditions came upon us and snow and weather were the third cause of some delay and difficulty.

I am happy to say that at the present time, as a result of the action we took to set up an emergency committee to examine the situation, the railways are in fact putting a lot of equipment into the movement of grain and are trying to turn trains around as fast as possible, and they are catching up. We will probably again see farmers having tremendous opportunities to deliver grain between now and the end of the crop year. If there is a lot of space and delivery opportunity for farmers, then the system is working to their advantage. And now, of course, it is working to their advantage with prices at record levels. Mr. Speaker, there is a very impressive record of action, not of neglect.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.