

Wheat Export Prices

Canada. I quote from the second paragraph on this page:

So the Anglo-Canadians built themselves an illusion of it by fencing off the French Canadians in their Quebec ghetto and then nibbling at its constitutional powers and carrying them off bit by bit to Ottawa.

Some hon. Members: Read on.

Mr. Bigg: I am going to read on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I might point out to the hon. member that the book he is reading from should have some relation to the actual debate on wheat.

Mr. Bigg: It has, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Basford: It is not solving the wheat problem.

Mr. Bigg: The wheat problem cannot be solved until we know what this government is going to do.

Mr. Basford: Go back to the book.

Mr. Bigg: The wheat problem cannot be solved because it is tied in with the economic problem. If government members have not read this book, their Bible, they are poor Liberals. This book was written and printed in the spring of 1968. It is not ancient history. You should know about it. If you have not read it, you should.

There is only man in the Liberal Party who admits having had no knowledge of what the book contains, and that is the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer). He had the courage to leave the cabinet.

The negativism in the whole approach to the wheat problem in Canada is sickening. The Prime Minister went out west. He thought all he had to do was smile, change his suit, smell his rose and all would be well. The people of western Canada are not that easily fooled. They want to pay their bills. They want to support their children. Many owners of small farms in western Canada are not satisfied to sell out to owners of larger farms, no matter what the deal is. A great many of them are not content to go deeper into debt, even though for 18 months they do not have to pay on the money that is going to be injected into their economy. They want to sell their grain for cash. They know their taxes will go up. Somebody has to borrow the money at 10 per cent to pay the carrying charges. This is only a stop-gap measure.

We were told acreage payments were only stop-gaps. The small marginal farmer in

[Mr. Bigg.]

Canada needs a little help when the government will not sell his products at reasonable prices so that he can stay on his own land. No matter what my socialistic friends on the left think of this socialistic government, we in this party are thoroughly fed up with it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Bigg: What is the answer? I think the acreage payment is worth while. The three acreage payments brought in by the Diefenbaker government amounted to a total of \$120 million. This is less money than we wrote off to the city of Montreal to help pay for Expo. I do not begrudge paying the bills of Expo, but what is fair for Paul is fair for Peter. In this case it is not Pierre, but Peter out west who needs the help. He needs it badly. When you help the farmer out west, it is reflected here.

There are places in western Canada full of farm machinery, most of which was made in eastern Canada. The backlash has not hit the east yet. It is all very well to say, never mind them; they are a long piece away. Some day we will find the corporations in Ontario and Quebec will not be able to pay the fat dividends they have paid for the last two or three years.

The western farmer is the best spender in Canada when he has the money. He can only spend it once. If he has to borrow money, someone has to pay the interest. The minister is only fooling himself when he speaks of injecting \$250 million into the economy. He knows perfectly well he is doing no such thing. He is lending money, at the expense of the people of Canada, to enable an economy which is sagging badly to continue. There is much that can be done. I would suggest some things if I had time, but I will just make one suggestion now.

More research should be done with regard to the uses of wheat. A day or two ago I heard of some research that had been carried out with regard to the use of fish. The fish are being dessicated, mixed with cereal products and sold or given away under our international give-away program to the hungry people of this world. This product is heavy in protein value. Wheat is the finest protein grain in the world.

• (9:00 p.m.)

It can be ground up with fish from the maritimes and in that way two problems can be solved. It can be ground and mixed up with codfish and if you do not like codfish,