

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

which have never been used before. I should like to appeal to the minister at this time to consider this suggestion seriously because I think this problem will escalate if something is not done immediately.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): As the hon. member pointed out, this question was asked on June 4. It came not only from the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) but the hon. member for Regina Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin), the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) also participated by way of supplementary questions.

I do not wish to indicate that the number of programs the government has initiated, and indeed the other actions that have been extended and expanded but not initiated during this past year, do in fact add up to a complete solution of the problem of grain marketing and the restriction of the cash flow that comes from that problem.

If the hon. member will look at page 10,264 of *Hansard* of June 17 he will find listed there a number of measures. As I said, none of them is a complete solution, but there are a number of measures which do in fact cost the treasury substantial sums of money that go a long way toward alleviating the situation.

The hon. member spoke about the matter of a transfer of some \$60 million to \$70 million from the treasury into the wheat economy. If he added up what has been paid by the treasury into the wheat economy by way of the temporary Grain Reserves Act plus the interest that is paid on cash advances, plus a number of other items all of which are listed on the pages I mentioned, he would find that it comes to \$60 million or \$70 million or indeed more.

Furthermore, since that time another announcement was made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) who reports to the house for the Canadian Wheat Board. He indicated that the cash advances which were doubled last November by parliament will be fully reinstated in the new crop year in about three weeks, regardless of whether or not the advances for the past crop year have been fully paid.

These are the series of measures that have been brought in, and they are substantial. In addition to that, as has already been announced very frequently, there will be a meeting in Washington of the ministers of the major exporting nations to the international wheat market to see if a basis cannot be

[Mr. Nystrom.]

found for re-establishing some stability in the international market. The hon. member knows that Canada has taken the lead in seeking to make the International Grains Arrangement work for and on behalf of producers of grain in this country and in the rest of the world, but we do not have complete control beyond our borders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. minister, but his time has expired.

NATIONAL REVENUE—INGERSOLL, ONT.—STEPS
TO RESTORE CUSTOMS SERVICES

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes at my disposal I wish to bring to the attention of the house and of the minister a gross example of administrative incompetence in his department, and express the hope that the hon. gentleman will be able to do something to rectify this.

I am in no way blaming the minister or even his deputy minister for what has taken place. I suggest that officials further down the line have supplied the minister and his senior officials with inaccurate information in that they have misled the minister with regard to the subject I am about to raise. I suggest they are the same officials who caused the administrative mess at Port Dover, Ontario, where the customs officer was removed to the inconvenience of visiting Americans who were then set upon by the R.C.M.P. and fined for not clearing their boats that weekend, although no arrangements had been made to enable them to do so.

In this case a decision was made to close the customs port at Ingersoll, Ontario for reasons of economy. I have no quarrel with that motivation. I received a letter from the minister last January marked private and confidential, so I was not able to discuss the matter with other parties concerned, indicating that the local interests had been consulted in advance of the decision. In fact, none of the important local interests involved were informed that the customs port would be closed, until 12 days before the event and this caused great inconvenience and confusion. The mayor of Ingersoll called a meeting attended by representatives of the industries concerned, and the responsible official of the Department of National Revenue from London, Ontario was in attendance. I attended the meeting myself. I regret to say that the behaviour of the customs official was not only high handed but exceedingly discourteous to the mayor of Ingersoll and to myself. There is