

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether this is the way in which we should proceed. We have heard the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. MacInnis), and the parliamentary secretary now has three minutes in which to reply.

**Mr. Honey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his remarks the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond referred to compulsion being used. I reject that suggestion out of hand; it is not the case. The hon. member again reiterated his former complaint about the legality of the action taken. I assure him that the matter has been approved and authorized by the law officers of the crown. I think this is the third time I have said that—

**Mr. MacInnis:** That is a lie.

**Mr. Honey:** It is a little difficult for me and hon. members of the house to understand why my hon. friend is so persistent in this matter. He has had the answer time and time again to this question. He has persisted, and I suggest to him respectfully that he is arguing against the interests of the people in his constituency. I should like to refer to a report in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of April 23, under the headline "MacInnis Asked to 'Cool It' by UMW". The article reads:

No. 12 local union of the United Mine Workers has told Cape Breton-East Richmond member of parliament Donald MacInnis to "cool it."

The New Waterford miners, in a special meeting, decided to send a telegram to Mr. MacInnis—

I hope the hon. member received that telegram.

—scoring "his destructive attitude towards Devco's plan."

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry, but the parliamentary secretary's time has expired.

AGRICULTURE—ST. PAUL, ALBERTA—PROTEST  
AGAINST FARM INCOMES

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** May I say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that I am very pleased that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) is able to be in the house this evening to discuss what I feel is a very important and urgent matter. I wish to raise the question of the serious deterioration in farm income in the past seven months in western Canada, and particularly in the north-east central portion of Alberta, the area of St. Paul and Bonnyville. My question was prompted by the protest meeting by the farmers of this district which took place in the town of St. Paul,

[Mr. Honey.]

attracting in excess of 800 people last Monday.

I believe it is reasonable to assume that, in general, farmers are quite patient, willing and able to take their share of knocks, as they certainly have. However, when conditions continue to deteriorate with no immediate sign of improvement, with no significant sign of government interest, and no alternative means of securing a decent living, then I believe protests and lobbies are justified.

At a time when seeding and spring field operations are about to commence, farmers are confronted with a critical shortage of cash. The average return per bushel of wheat delivered to elevators in this area amounts to approximately \$1.03. Most farmers last fall were forced to seek maximum cash advances, with the result that now, upon delivery, half of their return is deducted to be applied to the advance which was received last fall. As a result, the farmers are receiving an average net of roughly 50 cents per bushel.

The difficult conditions in this area are further aggravated by the fact that generally a large part of this area is a newly developing district, and by the fact that farmers have experienced three or four crop failures prior to this year. The problem that is foreseen now is that if some form of relief does not come in the near future, if markets do not improve, if deliveries are not more adequately accommodated, and if income is not upgraded, farmers will be confronted with a very grave difficulty in clearing their present cash loans on stored grain. They will thus experience much hardship in acquiring new cash advances this fall.

One alternative of course is to launch an all-out aggressive wheat selling campaign, something which this government has failed to do. We have not even been given any assurance that they might try. We have been given no indication of whether or not Russia might exercise her option of picking up 150 million bushels as part of the three year, long term agreement which I believe expires at the end of July.

We have been given no indication of any exploration of new markets. Japan has indicated its lack of interest in Canadian wheat and has elected, just recently, to purchase further large orders from Australia, the United States, and even Bulgaria for the first time. Perhaps Japan has reason to do what it has done. To date, we have failed to settle with the Japanese for a shipment of wheat which was of a low grade quality or which