

I have not heard of any reply being sent to the wire from the chairman of the transportation committee of the Atlantic division of the Canadian Feed Manufacturers Association. It was sent to three members of the empty treasury benches but so far there has not been any alleviation of the problem. I submit that this is of national interest when it concerns people from Vancouver to Halifax.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member who introduced this motion. I see no reason why anyone should withdraw when grain movements have been deteriorating in four consecutive shipping seasons. For the second time in 18 months, the Atlantic area food industry is so short of supplies that it is using such materials as it can get, and this is clogging the handling equipment associated with the manufacture of food. The settlement today is in the best interests of Canada, but the pattern of the past bodes evil for the future. It is time that Liberals, and not just the rest of Canada, took this situation seriously.

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, look at the government forces lined up for battle, shoulder to shoulder, obviously keen for the debate at hand. My hon. friend's tongue is flapping around more than a dozen fish with fins out of water. A few moments ago he made some reference to baby seals: we know what little baby seals grow up to be—Liberal backbenchers.

Mr. MacFarlane: I won't make any reference to your ancestors.

Mr. Whiteway: We know now why the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is building a swimming pool—so that he can have a home-training program for backbenchers. I wish they were half as active on their feet as they are on their rumps. Earlier in the debate the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) made reference to "that little strike". If it is a little strike in his opinion, that reflects his little understanding of what it has meant to the west.

In the last election campaign we heard a great deal about leadership, and earlier this evening the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang), with a self-righteous attitude, talked about the challenge to hon. members on this side to be constructive. He also talked about the problems of strikes. One of my colleagues suggested to the government that they should adopt our long-standing policy for a public interest disputes board. To my knowledge, this government has never brought to this House or discussed the two-factor theory or the superposed economy. An hon. member asks, "What"? He has never heard of it. But there are new and innovative ways, Mr. Speaker, and we have talked about them in this House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. McIsaac) on a point of order.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member speaking on tomorrow's debate, or is he speaking on a point of order? What subject is he trying to deal with? He has not said anything in relation to the motion and that is true of several of the speakers opposite.

An hon. Member: That is for the Speaker to decide.

Grain Shipments

Mr. McIsaac: I am making that point.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Trying to control the Tories?

Mr. McIsaac: I am asking the Speaker if he has heard anything relevant to the motion?

Mr. Whiteway: You see, Mr. Speaker, the little fish bite before the hook is even baited. Hon. members opposite have waited during 12 years of Liberal administration to get a policy on strikes. If they will just hold on for just another 15 minutes, maybe they will get something from me. The Minister of Justice continually offers the solution of "identifying the problem". We do not need great expositions of identifying and explaining and expounding the problem: we want the government to provide what it promised in the election campaign—that is, some kind of leadership.

● (0200)

I now want to talk about the right of people in this world to live. One week from today 200,000 Canadians will participate in the World Vision program. They will contribute \$1 million for grain, which is to be sent to Bangladesh, the Sahalian area, Ethiopia, Cambodia, and so on. Current labour disputes resulting in ships being tied up mean that the possibility of shipping food from the west coast is non-existent. One million pounds of food other than grain cannot be shipped because of labour disputes. There is a backlog in shipments.

The Minister of Justice asked the opposition to suggest alternatives and solutions. We are suggesting them, but he is not present to listen. Let me tell him that some farmers are persuaded it is their moral duty to grow cereal grains. They are interested not so much in economic gain as in feeding the hungry peoples of the world. Their work is impeded by programs like LIFT and lack of government leadership which results in labour disputes.

The Japanese cancelled an order and prefer to buy from the United States. Unless the government resolves labour disputes and allows for free, predictable, and easy grain movements, this country's economy will suffer and aid efforts will be fruitless.

The Minister of Justice asked the opposition to suggest alternatives. He should have remained in the chamber because, just possibly, he might have heard something worth while.

An hon. Member: He didn't miss anything.

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should summarize tonight's speeches, so that cabinet ministers tomorrow morning can read a succinct account of what has taken place. I do not see too many of that breed of cat around.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is tomorrow morning now.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am proud this debate has lasted until 2 a.m., or one o'clock Saskatoon time. I am proud to talk in a debate relating to western grain. Government supporters may not think it is of much importance, but we do. I am