

*Wheat Export Prices*

He says the problem arises because there is overproduction of wheat and the farmers should not grow so much. I have been here for some time and was here when the Liberal party was in opposition. At that time they were saying the same thing. They ridiculed a minister of that government who said, "Grow more; we will sell it". Today, they are saying, "Do not grow it; we cannot sell it". There is a point here. Wheat boards and brokers cannot sell to governments, but governments can sell to governments. I should like to say more about this later in my speech. May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

[English]

At six o'clock, the house took recess.

---

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Gundlock:** Just before I called it six o'clock I referred to the absence of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). I see he is present now, so perhaps I should repeat what I said. Earlier I complimented the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on his visit to the west, as a result of which he found there was a problem there. I hope you will forgive me for the time I am taking at this moment in reference to the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Speaker, who is my neighbour. Perhaps I could call him my friend. He may want to hear what I had to say earlier, in order that he might reply.

I recall the time when the minister had a great deal to say about the government, and I recall the time when he joined that government. In looking through some scrapbooks today I was reminded a little bit of the Minister of Agriculture. I have in mind particularly Throop's scrapbook at page 112. Mr. R. B. Hanson having interrupted Mr. C. G. Power, Mr. Power is reported as having said:

The hon. member had better not talk so much or they will make him a minister and keep him quieter.

I think that is what has happened to our Minister of Agriculture.

I note that the Prime Minister is not in is seat at this particular moment. How in the name of heaven can we resolve an important debate like this when the house is adjourned

[Mr. Gundlock.]

for a specific purpose and the ministers responsible are not here? This whole matter also involves the rule question, but perhaps we should go into that on another day.

When the Prime Minister was out west he expressed the conclusion that there would be no handouts to people with assets of \$100,000. I think the press was very kind to the Prime Minister. At one time he said they were not, but I think on his recent visit both writers and broadcasters were reasonable. In spite of the Prime Minister's visit, and the moon trip, the press paid particular attention to a particular problem in Canada. Everyone admitted there was a problem. The Prime Minister said that he could see the problem. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, and the other ministers of the Cabinet, what they consider to be assets of \$100,000 in today's economic situation and with today's interest rates.

The present government must accept the responsibility for the high interest rates which now prevail. The Minister of Agriculture is from the same part of the country in which I live and knows full well that interest rates average about 15 per cent, having regard to assets of \$100,000. Farmers have to pay anywhere between 8 per cent and 10 per cent on bank loans, and higher rates on borrowings from other sources. Anyone who is operating a wheat ranch, if you would like to call it that, is paying an average of 15 per cent interest on financing.

I pointed out earlier in respect of subsidies that only \$29 million of \$415 million in Canadian subsidies is being paid to the Canadian wheat grower. This means that over \$380 million is being paid in subsidies to people other than wheat growers. Let me bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that neither the Minister of Agriculture nor the Prime Minister are listening to what is being said. It has been suggested that the government does not subsidize people with assets of \$100,000 or more, but this government obviously has been subsidizing other industries, including the gold mining industry and the railway companies, to say nothing of the C.B.C. and other Crown corporations. These are virtually monopolies, not prime producers.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) is now here and I should like to deal with another subject before I conclude. This minister who has direct responsibility for this subject was recently in Washington. Was the Minister of Agriculture with him at that time?