

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Some of the measures the government should consider include:

1. Special over-delivery quotas to enable tough and damp grain to move to terminals.
2. Special action to clear space at elevator points now plugged with dry grain, which prevents facilities being used to move tough and damp grain.
3. Special payments to farmers who are forced to leave part of their crop in the field.
4. Adequate co-ordination and control to ensure that drying facilities are used to the maximum, and to develop emergency facilities as needed.
5. Special depreciation allowances for storage and drying facilities.
6. A guaranteed price of \$2.12 per bushel for No. 1 wheat, basis lakehead.
7. Effective back-up and support to the Canadian Wheat Board in dealing with the present difficult world market situation.
8. Action to control farm costs, including special action to control farm machinery costs and interest costs on borrowed money.

To deal with the serious problem facing prairie farmers, action must be taken now.

[Translation]

Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) will perhaps allow me to answer and to offer a few suggestions with regard to the problem he raises in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) who is now on his way to Winnipeg in order to attend the first meeting of the National Grains Council. The minister will try solve problems.

Here, there is a slight difference between speech and deed. I feel the Minister of

Agriculture understands quite well the problem set forth by the member for Regina East, and I should like to point out to him that last Friday, the Minister of Agriculture answered a similar question put by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Southam). I shall quote the answer given by the minister to that hon. member:

Mr. Speaker, there is a possible or a potential serious loss to the farmers of western Canada, but I think the hon. member will realize that until the harvest season is completed it would be difficult to ascertain what the loss will be.

That is before the harvesting is over.

There are several days, perhaps even weeks, left this fall when much of this harvesting could be done, providing the weather turns better.

I feel it would be premature—and this is the gist of my reply—to attempt to determine losses at this time.

The hon. member must also be aware that western farmers have purchased for about \$115 million worth of crop insurance and that the government's share amounts to 50 per cent of administrative costs and 25 per cent of premiums costs. Many other measures have been introduced in the advanced payments legislation, which is now before the house, as the hon. member has just said.

As regards other programs, all will depend on the circumstances and the hon. member will perhaps understand that the minister fairly tries to solve farm problems. He will also understand that, in conjunction with the provinces—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[English]

The parliamentary secretary's time has expired.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.17 p.m.