

Government Orders

away the cash advance program. It is not going to cause interest rates to be charged 2 and 3 per cent above prime as was suggested. It is going to be a government guaranteed loan and my guess is that it will probably be available at prime.

An Hon. Member: Your guess.

Mr. Mayer: Okay, challenge us. Wait and see what happens when it is implemented. In the case of the Canadian Wheat Board which borrows at less than prime, there is every indication that the rate could be even less than prime. To suggest that it is going to be just as easy to go to the bank, and you are going to pay the same interest, is wrong.

Second, cash advances, the limit which farmers have been asking for, are going to be increased. It is going to be a better marketing tool because it is going to be increased to \$250,000. To suggest additionally that this is going to hurt orderly marketing is exactly the opposite. With a cash advance you do not need to sell your grain because you have your money. The board has all kinds of examples where it needed grain and it put on a quota. There is no point in the guy hauling in the middle of winter because it is 40 below and he does not want to start his tractor, blow out the lane, get his truck going and all that. He has got his money. But if he has got to haul the grain to get his money, that helps as far as orderly marketing.

The hon. member laughs. This is the case. Look what happened last year on the prairies. There were some canola crushing facilities shut down because they could not get the canola. I am not saying totally, but a factor in that was the fact that these farmers had a cash advance. So, do not suggest that this is going to hurt orderly marketing. I could make the case that if anything it in

fact may help. It has nothing to do with the pooling price. Whether you sell to the board on the first day of the crop year, which is August 1, or the last day which is the following July 31, you get exactly the same amount.

The hon. member for Skeena should know better than to get up and read this rubbish that somebody put in front of him. He is a smarter member than that, but that is the kind of stuff that we have heard this afternoon. It has nothing at all to do with the bill. We heard about free trade. If we get an early winter or a squirrel out there that does something silly, it is because of free trade. Everything is free trade. It has nothing to do with free trade.

What it does deal with is some fiscal sanity in this country so that our farmers and our business people can pay and continue to pay modest interest rates. To suggest that this one bill, used by probably less than 10 per cent of the farmers in the country, is going to cause the demise of everything is ludicrous.

Mr. Fulton: You could close all the heart units in the country. Only a few people need a heart unit.

Mr. Mayer: That is a silly analogy. Again, he is a smarter person than that. The sooner we get this bill passed, the sooner people will have cash advances and the sooner they will be able to make use of it in the same way that they have in the past.

I see you are calling time, Mr. Speaker. I will continue tomorrow, if I may.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to standing order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.