

Grain

which is perhaps not directly our problem in Quebec but in which we are interested as Canadians.

It is the same problem that exists now in western Canada and that is reflected in other segments of the economy because there is no planning by the federal government.

First, they do not plan their financing. Consequently, they are now grappling with a given problem and to-morrow there will be another one. Instead of solving our problems, we make enquiries and we create royal commissions. Big deal. Instead of trying to solve the problem tonight, why not form a royal commission and study still another year, because that is the solution which the Liberals have been putting forward for many years.

How is it that tonight the Minister of Agriculture announced—I believe I was absent from the house at the time—that the C.P.R. had issued orders to make available in the port of Vancouver all the cars required to meet the needs of the present crisis?

Why did the C.P.R. not do it a few weeks ago? Why is it possible today when it was not at that time?

Tomorrow, hundreds of cars will stand on the sidings in the port of Vancouver, but how much will it cost us for the cars that will thus stand idle for whole days? Might it be that the C.P.R. wants to replenish its coffers or that its shareholders stand to make greater profits?

For weeks and weeks we needed them, and there were none, but now we have them all together at the same time!

Such are the questions that could be directed to the Minister of Agriculture and which deserve an answer. Those questions are of concern to all Canadians. Why? Because we are facing a financial problem and tonight, it is a transportation problem.

It is just the same in the field of economics: a transport problem, an economic bottleneck, a bottleneck affecting the means of transport in Vancouver. The minister will no doubt explain it, by putting the blame on the weather, just as the socialist technocrats, several years ago, explained to the whole world how they had lost their crops on the farms of Ukraine by blaming it on the snow, the frost and on permits which arrived too late.

In the present case, things were not planned in good time and this vindicates the Creditistes who want to decentralize production. The Minister of Industry and Trade and

Commerce is grinning; he has listened to nobody but the technocrats and now he is confronted with the situation which arose here tonight. He should seek the advice of experienced entrepreneurs, of successful businessmen, rather than of technocrats who try to explain away their carelessness by speaking of the weather or some such nonsense.

• (1:50 a.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to note that some hon. members to my right have indicated pleasure that I am participating in this debate. I mention this especially for the benefit of the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay (Mr. Stewart) who previously indicated he did not wish to be here any more. However, the fact that I mentioned him will bring to the attention of his constituents that he is present in the house at two o'clock in the morning, and if it takes a Conservative member to draw that to their attention I am happy to do so, since he can find no other way of doing so himself.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Why not name everyone who is here?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): It has already been suggested to me by another hon. member that the question of wheat has gone through the mill this evening. I hear another familiar voice, which reminds me that possibly this evening Liberal members were moved by the importance of this debate. Some of them may even have telephoned British Columbia and said: "For God's sake, someone give us some figures; they are pounding us down here". I leave it to members of the house to guess just who that member is.

An hon. Member: Name him.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): He is not worthy of it. For somebody from the east coast to participate in a debate on wheat may come as a surprise. However, it is a subject which the Speaker considered of national importance and worthy of debate. It is surprising to me that throughout the evening Liberal members, including the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson), have cast reflections on the opinion voiced by the Speaker, and so did the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang).

However, I consider that this matter concerns the economy of Canada, and what is good for the west is bound to be good for the east. Today the economy of this country is