

*Government Orders*

who cannot weather it out because he is cash-strapped, and unless he is given some assistance he will soon be under. My plea to the government is that it try to appreciate the dilemma in which it is placing farmers in the climatic conditions under which farmers operate. The government must give the farmers some assistance and must not try to compete with the Americans in the dairy industry because I know who is going to lose.

If there is a program that is working these days, I think there is some moral obligation on the government to maintain that program. GATT said to put a freeze on some of these programs. GATT did not say to discontinue them. So I do not see any obligation on the part of the government to discontinue this program that is working. Leave it in place, support it, beef it up a little bit to help the farmer so he can survive.

**Mr. McKnight:** Mr. Speaker, I listened closely to the member from Leeds—Grenville as he spoke, and to other members from his Party. I even heard the member for Winnipeg South Centre talking about the way that this government had reacted to pressures under the Free Trade Agreement.

Even his Party and farm organizations that had not supported this government in its free trade discussions and expanding the market-place for all Canadian products through free trade recognize and support GATT. The instruments that we believe, including free trade and GATT to benefit both agriculture and other manufactured products in Canada are a very necessary mixture.

The rulings that were discussed were rulings made by GATT. But unlike the member who spoke before I do not want to speak about something that I do not know anything about. I only want to speak about the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act as part of this bill.

The Liberal party, the Official Opposition, in assisting those farmers the Liberal member said needed assistance now, needed money now, has put forward a six-months' hoist as an amendment to delay the debate, to delay the implementation of this legislation that farmers want passed. That does not assist farmers. The Official Opposition has put forward a six-month delay

when there are producers out there today who would like this bill passed tonight.

**Mr. Fulton:** Name one.

**Mr. McKnight:** The member from the New Democratic Party who comes from a wheat-producing area of northern British Columbia and the Queen Charlotte Islands wants me to name one. I can tell the hon. member that there are phone calls to the Department of Agriculture as well as phone calls to my office. I encourage every producer out there in western Canada to phone the Official Opposition, to phone those members of Parliament and tell them to stop this silliness of a six-month delay in legislation that will allow producers to receive cash advances at prime and in increased amounts, Mr. Speaker, from \$30,000 to \$250,000. What these members are putting forward is a delay in giving farmers an opportunity to receive cash advances on grain that they have produced.

• (1720)

The opposition is saying that this program will jeopardize orderly marketing. It will not jeopardize orderly marketing, because if people have an opportunity to receive a cash advance, then they are not forced into the open market. What the opposition is doing is forcing producers to go away from orderly marketing that we support in western Canada. They are saying, "Don't give them a cash advance. Delay it for six months". Then, Mr. Speaker, they will have to sell on the open market.

I ask the member this question. They will have an opportunity to receive increased amounts under the amendments, an opportunity for smaller producers, who, I am sure the member for the New Democratic Party knows, pay a larger interest. They have always said that the big guys get the breaks, the little guys don't. This allows a guarantee from the Government of Canada to the financial institutions, and they will be borrowing money as cheap or more cheaply than the large producers. Does he believe that that is good for small producers, or does he wish to force them into the open market system by not allowing this legislation to proceed for six months?