

Grain

there. They learned that in practically every elevator in North Dakota grain may be dried. It is an accepted practice that grain is dried in or near country elevators in that state. In this country it is much more difficult to harvest wheat and it seems to me Canadian wheat producers would benefit in the long run if we adopted a practice similar to that carried on in North Dakota.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member to advise him his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: No.

● (12:50 a.m.)

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I would feel very remiss if I did not take part in this important debate tonight. I want to congratulate my colleague from the Mackenzie riding for bringing this very important subject before the house. Because our constituencies are adjoining, I am sure we have similar problems.

On September 25 last, as recorded at page 466 of *Hansard* for that date, I addressed several questions to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). The first one reads:

My question arises out of the very serious situation that has been created in western Canada owing to the very wet and impossible harvest conditions. Many farmers are going to be up against a serious feed shortage unless they have especially good weather in the late harvest season. Has the minister and his department asked the P.F.A.A. officials to make a survey of the seriousness of the situation?

The minister replied that this was being done. My supplementary question, which was ruled out of order, was as follows:

—have any plans been made to assist farmers with regard to drying facilities for wet grain? In order to get feed for livestock many farmers will be forced to take tough or damp grain off the land.

At that time the minister said a survey was being conducted. I wish to point out that many people who have had a complete crop failure have not received their P.F.A.A. payments as yet and they do not know when they are going to receive them. Much of the crop in that area was damaged by frost, and when farmers got the rest of it off the land it was tough and damp.

Cabinet ministers talk a lot about the three bushel quota. I would like to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what the three bushel quota means

in my area. When the three bushel quota was established the officials had not made a survey. The local elevator was full of grain from last year, yet in a letter to me the wheat pool chairman said that the largest shipping point in Saskatchewan had not received one single box car in a four-week period. Can you tell me what good the three bushel quota was when the elevator was full and there were no box cars? This demonstrates the seriousness of the situation.

The three bushel quota was really detrimental to many of the farmers in the area because they harvested lots of grain that would have been far better if it had been left in the swathe. Now, they find it impossible to buy the necessary drying equipment, or hire it. It is impossible to dry the grain because of the adverse weather.

The situation is not a laughing matter although I notice that a lot of members on the government side tonight seem to think it is a laughing matter. It would not be a laughing matter to them if they received some of the letters sent to me telling of the seriousness of the situation in which people find themselves. In the past few days I have received letters from people who cannot provide for their families. These people have no grain to ship. They cannot haul it out. The elevators cannot take some of the grain because it is too wet. It is certainly no laughing matter.

I notice that the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan (Mr. Lang) talked about doubling the cash advances on farm store grain. This is not too much help to a farmer who doesn't have any grain, but it brought back to my memory how members on the government side, when in opposition, criticized the cash advances legislation my party introduced. They said the Wheat Board would walk off the job if we did such a thing, but now they double the amount of the cash advances. I think this was a necessary move. I know a great many parts of western Canada will reap benefit from it, but it certainly will not benefit a farmer who has not any grain.

I think this matter is so important that I would remain here even if it meant having my breakfast here in order to represent my constituency. Members of the opposition have continually brought the urgency of the situation to the attention of the government. I notice that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) did make a statement in Winnipeg that he did not think it was up to the government to sell wheat. That is all right; the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce throws his