

of Edmonton, Imperial Oil Company—which is another friend of our Tory-type farmers—selling fertilizer in Saskatchewan at \$20 a ton more than is paid for it in Montana. I think the name of the place in Montana is Deadwood, and that is where the Tories should be. When I wrote the Minister of Agriculture—

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Can you write?

**Mr. Benjamin:** My secretary wrote it by hand. When I wrote the Minister of Agriculture I sent him copies of customs certificates, purchase orders and bills of lading showing that it costs \$20 per ton more for fertilizer in Saskatchewan than it does in Montana, 350 miles further away from the factory. The Minister of Agriculture, who is that great friend of the farmers—the minister who along with his colleague the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt is going to save the family farm—wrote me a letter on August 10 in which he said:

There are a number of companies competing for the fertilizer market in Canada and the absence of any import tariff also allows competition from abroad, thus preventing any one supplier from cornering the market.

If you will pardon my French, that is a bunch of crap. There are no companies importing fertilizer into Canada, but the companies that are manufacturing fertilizer, including the one in Medicine Hat from where the Minister of Agriculture comes, in Edmonton and Calgary are selling it in the three prairie provinces at \$20 to \$30 a ton more than you have to pay for it in North Dakota, South Dakota or Montana.

**Mr. Horner:** What are the co-ops doing about that?

**Mr. Benjamin:** The co-ops are doing something.

**Mr. Horner:** What?

**Mr. Benjamin:** They depend on their suppliers, and if they sell it at a lower price the suppliers will discontinue the supply. If you want to put that to the CPR and other suppliers, I invite the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) to do so.

**Mr. Horner:** I will, because I do not believe your words.

**Mr. Benjamin:** The Minister of Agriculture can loan \$100,000 to every farmer in western Canada at 7 per cent or 8 per cent—

**Mr. Horner:** And you will support it.

**Mr. Benjamin:** —but when it comes to paying \$7,000 or \$8,000 interest per year on those loans, that is a different story. I am sure the Minister of Agriculture will continue to follow free enterprise policies in respect of agriculture, most of which were brought forward by the Tories when they were in power.

**An hon. Member:** This guy is a Waffle. Laxer will take care of you.

**Mr. Horner:** I wonder if Stephen Lewis knows about you. I did not say David; I said Stephen.

**Mr. Benjamin:** That is why he is not here. These private enterprise agriculturalists amuse me. They say they are

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bright, individual, free-wheeling types who brought themselves up by their own bootstraps. This reminds me of the private enterprise, big-wheeling rancher who complains about the land bank in Saskatchewan while he is sitting on 80 sections of Crown land.

• (2140)

**Mr. Horner:** Is that Alf Gleave?

**Mr. Benjamin:** No. Alf sold all his land, all one-quarter section of it. But the big enterprise, private agriculturalist, whether Tory or Liberal, is the one in Saskatchewan and southern Alberta who has been sitting on 50, 60 or 80 sections—it is easier to keep track of it by townships—of Crown land. It is this type of person who tells us he brought himself up by his own bootstraps. The son obtained the land from the father, the father obtained it from the grandfather and the grandfather stole it from the Indians.

These are the private enterprise agriculturalists who brought themselves up by their own bootstraps. I have listened to these fellows since I was knee high to a blade of grass. The Liberals and Tories always talk about the independent, free enterprise agriculturalists. For the past 25 years while they have been talking, we have lost half our family farms.

The Minister of Agriculture will try to sneak in his small farm development program. There will be some noise from the other private enterprise agriculturalists, but he will try to sneak this in in clause 1 of the bill without parliament having seen any legislation. It is not only a matter of the people who are trying to save family farms getting elected in the next election; it is more important that we get rid of the Tories and Liberals who have destroyed rural Canada during the last 25 years. We have had instances of private enterprisers talking about lending money to farmers at 7 per cent or 8 per cent and then killing them with rising prices and farm costs. We will support a \$100,000 loan.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Handled by the credit union.

**Mr. Benjamin:** You bet. I hope the credit unions get all the lending business, and I hope the private banking friends of the hon. member for Mackenzie, the loan and trust companies, go belly-up tomorrow. So far as I am concerned, farm credit should be handled and operated entirely by the co-operative movement in the three prairie provinces, and I challenge my friend from Mackenzie to argue that point with me.

**Mr. Horner:** Challenge me.

**Mr. Benjamin:** I will.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Benjamin:** I shall finish off with the Liberals because the Tories are still sounding like 1890. They are trying to be all things to all people. I want to mention one other item which I believe has been overlooked in this debate, although I may be wrong. Under the provisions of the bill, the maximum loan is \$100,000. I wonder whether anyone has thought about this in relation to the Veterans'