

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

decision that we made exists **only** in his own mind. We decided some years ago to start zoning Canadian cities according to two or three digits. Early this year, as part of an over-all review of the operations of the Post Office, we came to the decision that we should examine the possibility of a national coding system into which we could integrate all sections of the country.

The purpose of a national coding system is to enable the Post Office to take full advantage of mechanized and automated sorting machines—not the kind of manual process that was such a boon to the patronage of the Conservative government. Its advantage, also, is to examine the feasibility of the present three-character postal zoning systems being continued as part of a national coding system and to determine whether from a practical operating standpoint such a national coding system can identify sections or units within a city. It is a system which allows us to go directly to an automated system of letter carrier walks and recommend detailed plans for the implementation of such a system.

Perhaps we are looking one or two years into the future, but there comes a time when you make a decision to provide, if it is at all feasible, an ideal system; therefore, you halt temporarily city by city, ad hoc measures. This is exactly what we have done. Anyone can use the existing two-digit or three-digit system. No one has to store any letterheads or any mail, and business is quite aware of this. There is no loss to them in this system.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the minister, but his time has expired.

AGRICULTURE—POSSIBILITY OF AID TO WESTERN FARMERS FOLLOWING MEETING BETWEEN PREMIER AND PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, on June 4 I directed a supplementary question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) asking him, because of his responsibility for establishing priorities in the government, whether in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) had announced a budgetary surplus of \$250 million, the government would divert some of this surplus into an emergency program to alleviate the economic crisis confronting western agriculture. I asked this question, first because agriculture was barely mentioned in the budget brought down by the Minister of Finance, and second there was a \$250 million projected surplus in the budget.

In view of a number of circumstances in agriculture in western Canada, I was suggesting in my question to the Prime Minister that we should divert some of this surplus into some sort of emergency plan. I realize there are many other areas into which some of this surplus could be diverted. However, the farmers of western Canada are frustrated by the attitude of the government. I came back from western Canada just yesterday, and a number of them were talking about the government giving subsidies and making concessions to many business corporations, automobile manufacturers, mining and *Time* magazine.

● (10:10 p.m.)

I should like to suggest that some kind of emergency plan in western Canada is of absolute necessity right now. I am sure the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) would agree with me on this since he also has been in the province quite recently. I think that right now the farmer has very little cash. He is met with escalating expenses and high interest rates, and this goes on and on. It is not only the farmer who is being hit in this way. This affects also the businessmen in larger and smaller communities in Western Canada. So I think that if nothing is done, there will be some real poverty in western Canada. There is already poverty in many of the farming areas there. I think it also makes economic sense to put some cash into the western economy. I know that the Saskatchewan Farmers Union, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and other organizations have suggested this to the government not once but many times.

There are many solutions. I am not saying that this is the only solution. We all know that many long range plans and activities have to be carried out in this area. I should like to suggest to the government that they spend \$60 to \$80 million on some emergency plan. In the past few months our party has been talking about something like this. I believe they have suggested a number of times that we pay farmers 20 cents a bushel as a deficiency payment on grain. If the government does not do something like this, there will not only be real poverty among the farming population of western Canada but many of these people will move into the cities and will join the ranks of the urban poor and unemployed. I think there will also be many more severe consequences. There will be much unrest which is already shaping up among the farmers. They are talking in terms