

However, the movement of grain in this situation is very important. It is important to the continuance of our customers. Boats come in and there are demurrage costs. The Grains Commission indicated that the cost at the strike was something like \$50 million a week in demurrage and cost of grain sales. When boats are turned back or not loaded, sales are lost. They could go to Seattle and load or they could just lose confidence in the ability of the grain movement in Canada to meet the need. This is not helpful.

It is most important that we have an effective system so that we do not lose our markets, especially when we are facing the problems on the international scene.

We know what it means in terms of dollars and cents to the farmers and the farm situation.

I was speaking to representatives of some of our elevator companies in Saskatchewan last evening. They indicated that they could take grain if they could get it moving. This is most important to our farmers and to their livelihood.

The third area that I would like to speak about is the importance of this movement of grain to all Canadians. I think there is something happening in Canada that I am not entirely enthused about. In fact, I am very, very concerned about it.

There seems to be an undeclared war between urban Canada and rural Canada. This ought not to be. This ought not to be, and I want to emphasize this. Grain movement and the conditions of agriculture are important to every Canadian citizen.

One of the strengths of this country has been that we have been able to provide cheap food for Canadians. Maybe it is too cheap. Agriculture Canada tells us that probably 14 per cent of the income of Canadians buys their food. In many, many countries, it is up to 50 per cent and I am not saying that that is ideal.

What I am saying though is that as Canadian farmers, and I am one, have provided a service; the production of food for Canadians, for North Americans and even for the world if you will, at a very, very reasonable price.

It is important that we have the strength to continue to do that. I believe that we need understanding from the urban community and the rural community.

One of the advantages, if there are advantages, of carrying the message through these rallies has been that

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the Canadian citizen, whether rural or urban, becomes conscious of a very, very serious problem that exists.

This problem is not only at the local and rural level, it is also at the national and the international level. Our government has taken steps and the Prime Minister has given leadership, particularly at the international level.

I attended the meeting in Vancouver with the Prime Minister when he met with 50 farm groups going to Tokyo. The topic of agriculture was not on the agenda of the G-7. Thanks to the Prime Minister, and too often he has received no thanks, it was put on the agenda of the G-7 and is now running at the forefront. This is important at the international level. It is very, very important.

We are getting tired of hearing the word "GATT", but it is very, very important that we see and find some agreements in that area.

I want to point this out on grain movement. We have sold to Russia over the past 30 years about 37 per cent of the production of agricultural commodities and grains and oilseeds. It is about 37 per cent.

That country is in a position now where it has no money. One of the major problems that we face in agriculture and from the international aspect as well as the national is that many of our sales go to countries and people who cannot afford to pay, yet they need the products.

This certainly begs an international problem which needs an international solution of making food a priority. If there is one human right that any individual should have anywhere in the world, it is the right to eat. It should certainly be a priority.

We must say that that is not the priority in the way it exists today. Our government and our Prime Minister recognize that. Our Prime Minister has been giving leadership at the international level although you might say: "We have not seen much proof of it". It is on the table and it is important.

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I think we have a window of opportunity right now, when the Prime Minister is dealing with Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Bush and the G-7 countries saying "how are we going to come to grips with this problem." There is a window of opportunity to deal with this very serious problem, but it is going to need understanding from all of the countries of the G-7, Japan included.