

the first of February—if he would give the same consideration as that given by the Conservative government in power just a year ago. I received the following answer:

On May 29, you inquired in the House whether the government would increase the price of domestic grain as of February 1, 1980, and how farmers are to recover the \$25 million they have lost.

A little further on he says:

There is therefore no plan to reimburse producers for their costs as a result of the program during the recent period when world prices were above the domestic maximum.

It was interesting to note, however, that a day later I received on my desk a news release from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) stating:

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan today announced that a cheque for \$5 million has been sent to Quebec—

A little further down it says:

Under the Quebec program, the federal government is providing \$33.5 million over a five-year period—

● (2010)

All I want to suggest is that it is high time we in this House gave some consideration to where moneys are being spent. We in my constituency ask for some consideration, particularly in view of the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his Speech from the Throne asked that special consideration be given to western Canada because there was no representation, for the most part, in western Canada. I am glad I can stand in this House this evening and speak for a party which has members in all provinces of Canada. I believe it is important when the government is considering its spending—particularly in the case of spending \$12 billion—that it consider fairness.

There came to my desk today a news release from the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski), which says:

The Minister of Transport's intention to deprive over 7500 western grain farmers of 1000 miles of rail branch lines is another indication of the Trudeau government's misunderstanding of and indifference to the needs and objectives of western Canada.

This leads me to another point about government spending, which I think is very important and relevant to Bill C-30. We have come through a time when, in western Canada in particular, we were not moving grain. It is all right to talk about government spending and so on, and to criticize it, but it is another thing to come up with some answers. I suggest that there are some answers. One answer is found in productivity. Western farmers have produced wheat. We had not put in a system of rail grain movement in general that was handling our production, and that was a gross error on the part of the government that is in power today. The former minister of transport, the hon. member for Vegreville, did a tremendous job of adjusting some of the inadequacies and some of the problems that existed in that area, and this is bringing about some results today. It looks like we are back to the old game; 1,000 miles of transportation is in question. I suggest it is very important that we look at productivity. I represent people who are very productive in two areas: agriculture and the oil industry. If we are going to find some solutions to the prob-

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lems and stop the extravagant spending of the government, we had better find some solutions to productivity problems.

Our government was blocked. In fact, it was put out of power, and, if I recall correctly, I was the last speaker before the government was put out of power. We brought down a budget which would have provided a way to make Canada productive, particularly in energy, which is very important and will be very important to Canada. It is interesting to note that to this point the government, after only several months, has done nothing about an oil pricing agreement. There have been no negotiations which have brought forward any result in terms of coming to an agreement. At this point the two sides seem further apart. OPEC is talking about \$37 a barrel for oil, and we in western Canada are receiving less than half the world price. We basically have no program for self-sufficiency or production.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Confrontation and arrogance.

**Mr. Gustafson:** What brought all this on? For the past 12 years of Trudeau Liberal government the Prime Minister has allowed socialist trends to develop.

These trends have been the downfall of this country having regard to productivity, the lack of which has been unequalled in the history of Canada. Unless we reverse the trend in agricultural production—

**An hon. Member:** That's right, back to the stone age.

**Mr. Gustafson:** —and in industry, this country will face problems for many years.

● (2020)

I want to give you some indication from a very homey experience. I was involved in the contracting business, house moving. We moved a house for a gentleman to a town called Kipling. I happened to move that house in which he was retiring. He was of Hungarian origin and came over here as a pioneer. He took an axe in his hand and said, "What can I build?" On that farm was a log house that he built. The next house beside the log house was the one in which he lived from about 1920 to about 1948, and I am only guessing. He was using that house for a tool shed, and the house which we moved into Kipling for him and in which he retired was built by him in about 1948 or 1949. A story was told in that farmyard of someone who came to Canada, picked up an axe and said, "What can I build?" He hewed out, in the Canadian way—and he was one example of many great Canadians from various origins—a tremendous future which I as a member of Parliament and other members of Parliament and their sons and daughters are enjoying in Canada today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gustafson:** The opposite trend to that in recent years has been to ask, "What can we get for nothing?"

**An hon. Member:** The Tories.