

Wheat Sales

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): The farmers' own money.

Mr. Whicher: Paid for—and rightly so, since I believe in the two-price system—by all of the citizens of Canada, including the farmers of Newfoundland, the farmers of Nova Scotia, people in Halifax, the city of Montreal, New Brunswick and every other place in Canada.

I see my time is passing very quickly, Mr. Speaker, but sometimes we do have to go back into past debates and read what happened. When I heard the official opposition this afternoon say that they were opposed to the two-price system, I went back to *Hansard* for June 17, 1969. As reported at page 10280, this is what one of the hon. gentlemen opposite said:

I wish to put forward nine programs that the government could launch and which would put cash into the farmers' pockets.

That is what I said just now; they had to have cash.

The first is the establishment of a two-piece system for wheat.

Mr. Chrétien: Who said that?

Mr. Whicher:

Mr. McNamara of the Canadian Wheat Board said we are fully capable of launching such a system.

The author? The hon. member for Crowfoot.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): I did not say it should come out of the wheat farmers' pockets.

Mr. Whicher: This is the same hon. gentleman who stood this afternoon and said that we are not doing anything for western agriculture, when in reality we did exactly what he asked us to do some three years ago.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, there is another thing that the hon. member said.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, I cannot hear what the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) is rising on, and that in itself is a rare occurrence. The hon. member for Crowfoot.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think it is always a pleasure to know that one's speeches are read, but it should be pointed out that the two-piece system I asked for at that time I felt should be financed by the federal treasury, not come out of the farmers' pockets, as did the last payments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That, again, is a point for debate. The hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher).

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will deduct that wasted minute from my time.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Your time hath cometh.

[Mr. Whicher.]

Mr. Whicher: This afternoon I heard criticism of the Lift program, which was put into effect at a time when we had so much wheat in Canada we did not know what to do with it. I can quote member after member on the opposition side, particularly those in the Conservative party, who said that somewhere along the line we had to stop, that we had too much wheat on hand. I think the figure put forward at that time was one billion bushels. May I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that we had one billion bushels of wheat on hand when the Lift program came into operation. In a way, I do not blame hon. members of the New Democratic Party for being opposed to the Lift program, because they were opposed to it from the day it was proposed.

I happened to find on the same page of *Hansard* something else that was said by a certain member of the official opposition and it is this:

Thus my third suggestion is that the government make payments to promote summer fallow and the production of grassland, which might encourage farmers to go into other lines of production.

The author? The hon. member for Crowfoot.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whicher: So you cannot have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. You cannot stand in this chamber, face the people of Canada, your constituents and the farmers of western Canada and say that a two-price system is a good thing, that the Lift program is a good thing, that we should put all the acreage we can into summer fallow and raise more cattle or hogs, and then three years later, namely, today, stand in this House and for political reasons blame the minister for doing all of these things.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Whicher: The same hon. member has made speech after speech after speech, and if I had the time tonight I could spend from now until tomorrow night showing how on one occasion the hon. member for Crowfoot talked through his mouth and on another occasion talked through something else.

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Times have indeed changed since 1969 when there was so much wheat and grain in western Canada. I have not always agreed with the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. The hon. member for Crowfoot to whom I speak with a twinkle in my eye because, although we have been fighting for years, we have also played a lot together for years—

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Please explain.

Mr. Whicher: He knows full well that I have not always agreed with the minister. As a matter of fact, on numerous occasions I have given him the very blazes for not getting out and selling wheat around the world. I am not one to quote from biblical sources very much, unfortunately, but this afternoon a certain member of the opposition gave me a verse from St. Matthew. It is:

Ask, and ye shall receive. Seek, and ye shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.