

*Government Wheat Policy*

In all honesty I would ask the house now to seize this opportunity to see what can be done to stave off really serious losses as a result of the condition of this grain. I know whereof I speak, because I have a dryer operating on my own farm saving grain that otherwise would have been a total loss. This situation will be repeated on farm after farm in western Canada. There are things that can be done and should be discussed in this house. Those here who are able to advance solutions and programs that might be useful should be given the opportunity to place them before the government.

The government should bring before us and offer to this house the opportunity to discuss the situation thoroughly and examine all facets and all courses of action that may be taken to use the resources of the commercial channels which are available, as well as the resources that the farmers themselves may have available.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, allow me to point out that we support the motion for study of the western farmers' very urgent problem.

However, frankly, we deplore the fact that, when we talk about an eastern agricultural policy, we do not get the necessary support in calling for justice for our own farmers. In the past, we have asked that grain elevators be built which would enable the transfer of feed grain from the west to the east; this would help the farmer, especially in winter, when boats cannot navigate and grain must come by rail, which of course makes it too expensive.

We support the motion and understand that there are problems in Canada. However, recently we too have asked that a solution be found to the unemployment and strike problems in the eastern townships; but we did not get the required support from the house.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. If I may interrupt the honourable member, I should like to remind him that the debate on the matter under consideration is limited, since we have to determine whether or not there is urgency of debate. If the ruling of the Chair is favourable, the honourable member will then be able to discuss the subject matter of the motion to be moved subsequently.

**Mr. Dumont:** I was coming to that, Mr. Speaker.

I simply wanted to say that we could have built grain elevators to solve the unemployment problem and to make it possible for this grain to be moved from the west to the east. Since we did not find the means to settle this problem, the Canadian parliament, on the one hand, must today face a surplus problem in the west and, on the other hand, a shortage of feed grain in the east. The farmers are complaining every day, and we could have settled this problem if we had listened to the voices heard in 1962. In fact, the urgency becomes obvious because the Prime Minister refuses to renew the winter works program and because this western grain which becomes a burden for the western farmer has to be moved and could bring abundance to the east.

This is why we are asking for the immediate planning of works in order to settle this problem of abundance. As far as we are concerned, we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, the solution would be to utilize simultaneously the Canadian money and production, that is 664 million bushels of wheat and the necessary capital which would make possible the distribution of abundance.

[*English*]

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, as seconder of the motion I rise to speak in support of the urgency of debate. I trust the house will not try to treat this as a routine motion or as mere attempt to divert the house from its proper business. I hope we shall have the support not only of all western hon. members but of the majority of hon. members from the east as well.

I say that because the situation is of such a serious nature. The statement by the chairman of the wheat board cannot be discounted. It lends itself to one interpretation only; that western agriculture faces a loss of hundreds of millions of bushels of grain and millions of dollars, which farmers cannot afford to lose. I therefore suggest that we take action on the matter now.

As the mover of the motion said, there is no immediate opportunity to deal with this crisis which arises out of a series of failures on the part of the government. Unless this is dealt with immediately the result will be a paralysing blow to the western economy. The six weeks' grain handlers' strike resulted in a disastrous slowdown in deliveries from which we have not yet recovered. This matter has not been dealt with previously because the government failed to provide an occasion upon which to do so. Now, because of the