

*Business of Supply*

• (5:50 p.m.)

The government could go a little further. I am not talking about money that comes from the treasury and is provided by the taxpayer. This system could be paid for by the farmers, because they are paying now. I have heard it said that they do not pay it, but if they were paid for farm-stored grain, the government would not have to pay storage on amounts above 178 million bushels because it would not be in the elevators.

The payment should be made to the farmers. Let the elevators be handling companies. I do not mind saying that. I have belonged to elevator co-ops for 30 years and I believe their position should be that of handlers. Railway companies are shippers. We have never had any real complaints from the railway companies as shippers. I do not see any cause for so much talk. Ministers are running around the country talking about a new boxcar system. There was never any trouble delivering wheat when there were sales.

According to the minister, the Wheat Board has maintained our world position. I again say that I fail to understand this, because some world exporters have lost only 2 per cent or 3 per cent of their position in the world market. Others have lost 4 per cent, 8 per cent or 15 per cent. Canada, Mr. Speaker, has lost 45 per cent of its world trade. How does the minister explain that? Here again he is using the Wheat Board as a scapegoat. They are not salesmen; they are buyers. They are the sole purchasing agent. I am sincere when I say the minister uses the Wheat Board as a scapegoat.

How can the minister say that we have maintained our place in the export of grains when in fact we have lost nearly 45 per cent of our market? The whole thing just does not add up, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the government shows absolutely no interest in this problem. I am serious when I say that the minister does not even know what he is talking about. I have talked to the farmers and listened to what they have said. I hope that for once the minister will listen to what they say through farmers who are members of the House.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** They are willing to subsidize a sales agency under the Wheat Board.

**Mr. Gundlock:** The government will probably turn it into a Crown corporation, appoint its friends to the corporation and thereby get the responsibility off its back.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member,

[Mr. Gundlock.]

but his time has expired. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Southam).

**Mr. Southam:** Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is it the pleasure of the House to call it six o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair to resume the same at eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to take part in the debate and I should like to begin by complimenting my hon. friend from Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) for having introduced this motion of non-confidence in the government with respect to its agricultural policies and, more particularly, with respect to grain storage and movement.

If there was ever a period in Canadian history during which the people of Canada, especially those who live on our farms, had no confidence in their government, that time is now. Time and again members of the opposition have sought to adjourn the House to discuss agricultural problems; hundreds of questions have been directed to the government on the subject, opposition days were used for the same purpose last fall. Today, once again, we find the official opposition devoting its first opposition day to the subject of agriculture. Surely, in these circumstances, the government should finally come to life and take remedial action.

I listened very carefully to the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon-Humboldt when he spoke before we adjourned for the dinner hour. What did we hear? We heard that this motion was a phony. Just imagine a statement like that coming from a new minister who is charged with the responsibility for looking after the interests of western agriculture. I was never more surprised in my life. I am sure the government's supporters will have red faces for some time over this statement. In regard to grain storage at the Lakehead he referred repeatedly to normal conditions. But, let us face it, these are not normal times. Indeed, the times are most abnormal. The minister referred re-