

*Government Orders*

That is a proper metaphor for what this government is doing to the agricultural community of Canada. Day by day, drip by drip, program by program, the agricultural community of this country is feeling the heavy hand of this government as it attempts to fundamentally restructure and reorganize the element of agriculture that has been built up over the last 100 years in this country. It is a design. One has to acknowledge that there is a certain implicit, if not nefarious agenda behind all these actions. It is simply to turn over agriculture to the corporate community of Canada, the big agri-farm system, to ensure that those who have given their support to the trade agreement and provided the contributions to their treasuries will find some satisfaction. The people who they can dine out with, who put on the tuxedos and get the high-priced tickets for the big dinners are the people who their agriculture policy is designed to meet.

We have seen, over the last couple of years, a whole series of decisions. Of course, this bill in itself represents perhaps one of the clearest examples of a direct attack specifically on the family farm itself.

It is an attack specifically on those smaller farmers who for years have been able to rely upon a combination of crops and activities but who need a cash flow, some sense of certitude there would be a cash flow so that they can do the bridge financing necessary to buy the seed and prepare the ground and to do all the necessary development for the next crop year. That is what the advance cash payments have provided. Year after year they provided a level of stability, a level of certainty and a level of planning into the food cycle.

I agree that the big corporate farm friends of the minister of grains and oilseeds do not need that. They have their own corporate reserves and their treasuries. The advance cash payments are not something that is essential to them, so of course, the immediate conclusion is to get rid of them. Why have a program that does not suit our friends, they say. Why do something that has its own social and economic implications but is not part of our universe, is not part of our little clique?

We have a government that does not govern for most Canadians. It governs for a small elite and the rest of us are abandoned. The rest are exiles in this country. They are simply part of a large, forgotten majority who does not feel that they have access to or any contact with the national Government of Canada.

One can imagine the dyspepsia in the stomachs of the ministers opposite because they realize all of a sudden that what they have been trying to do piece by piece in covert fashion is finally being exposed. Finally we are beginning to see that there is a master plan and that is to totally revolutionize and radicalize the system of agriculture in this country and that they are using a whole variety of instruments to achieve it. This bill is only one instrument, I would suggest to you,

• (1620)

I draw to your attention a series of developments that have taken place; the substantial increase in the grain freight rates, the cancellation of grain shipments to Churchill, the way in which it has niggardly provided a drought assistance program to the point where many farmers have yet to receive it or received only partial payments, the pull-out of certain stabilization programs and, one that I deal with on a day by day basis, the enormous problems being faced in the area of trade.

Agriculture in this country is an export market. As a country we have taken some real pride in that. Our agriculture has led export markets and has made fortunes for this country over the years for everybody, city dweller and farm dweller alike.

That is perhaps the area which has proven to be most vulnerable, most under attack, most susceptible to the kind of wrenching that is taking place. Look what happened. The minister of grains and oilseeds could not wait for the ink to dry on the free trade agreement before he blew out the Wheat Board on its responsibility for oats. The haste with which he did it was not even polite. It was not even a polite burial. He could hardly contain his glee when he ran off to immediately undermine the responsibility of the Wheat Board in that crucial area.

Then, of course, we have what I think stands as one of the great big lies of our time. I have sat in the House now since we have opened and listened to the Minister of Agriculture and the minister of grains and oilseeds saying—and I applaud their theatrics—with a straight face, with the solemnity of a Baptist preacher, that when it comes to the decision on GATT dealing with yogurt and ice cream it has nothing to do with free trade.