

Anyway, on with the topic. What we are talking about here, Mr. Speaker, is a very, very important industry. It is a wealth-creating industry in this country, and there are only four of them: fishing, farming, forestry and mining. Everything that we have, as I said before in this House, before us and used as Canadians comes from one of those basic natural resources. We go on with farming and with all of them. We provide for the needs of ourselves and our society from that. We have an industry here that is in bad trouble, a bad financial situation.

There are 425,000 to 450,000 Canadians involved in the industry. There are many total communities that are involved in that industry. At the present time, we have a tremendous amount of disappointment in the government and what it has said in the last two or three years and what has happened. The minister who just spoke said that the plans and the support programs that have been put in place for the future were done in conjunction with and with the assistance of the farming community, and indeed farmers themselves and their organizations. I agree, that did take place, Mr. Speaker. But when those groups were asked to come forward and take part in planning their future and come up with the right ideas, they were told and they were led and they were shown very clearly by the government that in the transition from our old *ad hoc* type assistance programs to agriculture to a new safety net program, that in that transitional period they would not be let down.

However, that let-down has happened. Producers in this country, primary producers in the agricultural industry, are asking the government to reconsider and to live up to that promise and that commitment, and that has not come forward.

That is why I am getting phone calls from farm suppliers. That is why I am getting phone calls from individuals, from farmers who say "Lyle, I took over my father's farm. My father had some savings and some equity in the business, but I cannot survive. My parents are putting more money into my business every year and now they are having everything they had disappear". In the meantime our food producing abilities in this country are going down the drain and closing up every day, day after day.

Supply

I just want to give the public some information to look at. Ontario soft winter wheat farmers this year got \$75 a tonne for the wheat they delivered in August from this year's crop.

Last year I believe that was \$115 per tonne or \$120 per tonne. I asked how many people took that type of drop. If we just want to convert that to what the farmer gets out of that, in a 500-gram box of cereal which is said to be 100 per cent wheat, at \$75 a tonne the farmer got less than 4¢ for the wheat that was in that box of cereal that probably sold for three dollars-plus in the grocery store.

In 1933, if we look at the figures, the price relative to what farmers are getting for their products compared to the cost of living and the cost of doing business today is as bad or worse than it was in the dirty thirties.

In 1933 it took about three bushels of wheat for a man to get a haircut. Today it takes five. I am using wheat, although I could use other crops, but that seems to be the one we use as a yardstick.

For an average retirement home in 1933 it took less than 7,000 bushels of wheat. If a farmer sold that, he could buy an average retirement home. In 1991, instead of less than 7,000 bushels of wheat, it will take 60,000 bushels of wheat. That is some comparison.

In 1933 the average man's dress shirt would take five bushels of wheat. You could sell that and go to town and buy a dress shirt. Today it takes 15 bushels of wheat. I could go on, but I think that brings home the point.

There is another matter. Farmers keep saying to me: "Lyle, we have concerns about the environment, but are we not a little bit out of whack? Where are we here?" We talk about sustainable agriculture and sustainable environment, et cetera. Yes, I agree with this sustainable environment and I promote it and I support it. But I maintain that unless an industry is sustainable economically, it cannot sustain the environment as well. If the industry is not there, so what?

I have farmers and individuals and other business people who have nothing to do with agriculture coming to me and saying: "Are we not a little out of whack?" In society today it takes between \$150 to \$200 to dump, or the term that is used is to "tip" a load of garbage. That is