

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Second Session — Sixteenth Legislature**  
**40th Day**

**Saturday, March 29, 1969**

The Assembly met at 10:00 o'clock a.m.  
On the Orders of the Day.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FINAL WHEAT PAYMENT**

**Mr. J.R. Messer (Kelsey):** — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to bring to your attention and to the attention of the Members of this Assembly the announcement of the final wheat payment to the farmers of Western Canada. In the past it has been the smiling face of the Premier who announced this relatively reasonable final payment that the farmers have received. Unfortunately he is not present today. This year, Mr. Speaker, the average payment will be 12.462 cents per bushel in comparison to as high as from 40 to 50 cents in past years. Taking into consideration the 20 cents per bushel increase in the initial price last year, this still means a reduction of approximately 9 per cent in total price of wheat to the farmer for the year 1966-67, which further means a reduction of 20 per cent in total price to the farmer which he received for his grain in comparison to 1967-66. This is a serious situation and becomes more serious when we take into consideration that 1967-68 deliveries are 456 million bushels compared to 632 million for the year 1966-67. In total this payment will mean some \$60 million to the Prairie farmers. In 1966-67 the payment meant \$315 million to Prairie farmers. When we take these facts into consideration, and also the fact that the payment for durum and other grains is down, and the average quota at the present time is 2.4 bushels per acre in comparison with 4.2 at the same time last year, we should indeed be aware of the difficulty being encountered by the farmers of Saskatchewan. I ask the Government opposite: does the Provincial Government have an immediate policy in hopes of correcting this situation, or has the Government reconsidered its position of not supplying some means of cash assistance to the farmers in the Province of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. D.T. McFarlane (Minister of Agriculture):** — Mr. Speaker, I was aware of the figures as indicated by the Member for Kelsey, being a practising farmer myself, I think I can only share the disappointment of farmers in Western Canada with the lower final payment this year. I think it ill behooves some farm organizations who a year or so ago tried to impress upon the Federal Government and the Wheat Board that

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the initial price should be raised by some 20 cents which in turn would affect the final payment and now try to indicate to the people of the province that the final price is the difference between 12 cents and some 40 cents a year ago, without taking into account the change in the 20 cent basis from the final payment to the initial payment. I think that it only strengthens the stand that I took at Ottawa last week on behalf of the farmers of Saskatchewan and Western agriculture, when we indicated to the National Agriculture Congress that there is every justification now for the farmers of Western Canada being entitled to a domestic price for wheat. We pressed this proposal most emphatically. We also indicated that there was every justification for the preservation of the Temporary Reserves Storage Act. As you know, Mr. Speaker, it means quite a substantial amount to the farmers by way of a storage payment and that again is reflected in the final payment. We felt that there was every justification at the time for at least considering pegging the price of wheat at \$1.95½ a bushel until such time as agreements can be arranged or met between the exporting and importing countries through the International Grains Arrangement. We felt too that this was no time to be talking in terms of withdrawing some of the subsidies that the farmers of Western Canada are entitled to, in view of what would appear to be a recessionary trend at the moment as far as wheat sales are concerned.

I would only hope that this should impress upon all Members the very serious situation that the farmers have been faced with over the years past in the way of strikes that have prevented the delivery of grain at the most crucial times, strikes that have a tendency to lose sales of Western grain to other countries. I think too that it now indicates that the Federal Government through its agency, the Wheat Board, should probably be a little more elastic and give the Wheat Board more elbow room in their pricing system in order to try and meet international competition and not price our grains in such a position that for a matter of one cent or two cents we could lose our sales to some other country.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Messer:** — I appreciate the Minister's position that he took at the Congress in Ottawa last week. The situation that the farmer . . . a supplementary question please, Mr. Speaker . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order, order! I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that whole discussion is completely out of order because there is no motion before the House. It is customary for Cabinet Ministers to make statements to the House when it is in session and when a Cabinet Minister makes a statement to the House, which indeed he should do, prior to making it to the press, then it is also customary for a Member of the Opposition, the Leader or one of his colleagues, to comment thereon. But there is now no motion before the House

and therefore there cannot be a debate.

**Mr. Messer:** — Am I in order to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker? I was intending to ask a question the second time, Mr. Speaker.

It is my understanding that owners of lease land who have tough and damp grain in the province have been extended money for the drying of the Government's share of the crop only. Is this information correct, Mr. Minister?

**Mr. McFarlane:** — Before I left for Ottawa we were discussing this in my Department and I believe arrangements were made for those leaseholders who have damp grain to be dried that the Government would stand the cost of drying the Government's share.

**Mr. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition):** — Do I understand the Minister to say that they are going to provide some help to dry the Government's share, but nothing to dry the share that remains to the farmer himself? Is that the situation?

**Mr. McFarlane:** — The farmer has the advantage of the cash advance for drying grain and instead of him paying the full share, the Government will look after its share of the grain.

**Mr. E. Kramer (The Battlefords):** — Did the Minister intend to leave the impression in the House that the fact that the Wheat Board paid 20 cents more on last year's crop or the previous year's crop was the total reason for the 12½ cent payment.

**Hon. Mr. McFarlane:** — I didn't say that, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Kramer:** — You do recognize the fact that the Member for Kelsey said that . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — If you want to ask a question, go ahead. I would again draw your attention to the fact that all oral questions are also out of order. They are therefore allowed by courtesy of the House. Go ahead if you want to ask a question.

**Mr. Kramer:** — These people may have an extrasensory perception, but they don't know what I am going to say when I get up.

**Mr. Speaker:** — No, neither do I! I hope that the Committee on Standing Orders will recommend a revision of the rules of the

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House so that there will be absolutely no questions asked in this House without notice – except a priority question of urgency. That's the proper way to do this and get the whole matter of questions into order, instead of having unseemly hassles over it. Go ahead.

**Mr. Kramer:** — Does the Minister recognize the fact that there is a serious drop in overall price and even has been on two different occasions now? That is according to the statement made by the Member for Kelsey.

**Mr. McFarlane:** — The Minister is aware of the whole situation as it affects Western farmers, and has been for years trying to do something about it.

**Mr. Kramer:** — I am surprised.

### **CONDOLENCES**

**Hon. W.R. Thatcher (Premier):** — Mr. Speaker, I should like to move seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd), by leave of the Assembly:

Resolved, That this Assembly unites in paying tribute to the memory of General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower, former President of the United States of America and former Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, whose life was devoted to the service of his Country, and whose death is deeply mourned by all those who served with him in the cause of freedom.

**Mr. W.S.Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition):** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in seconding the motion which the Premier has put before the Legislature to add the sentiments of Members on this side of the House with respect to the death of a man who has for many years been one of the world's great figures. It seems to me that history is of such a nature that frequently it does call for a particular kind of person at a particular time. That it seems to me was the situation with respect to General Eisenhower. As I gather from reading the story of the times, the particular contribution which he made was that of being able to balance and to synchronize the effort and the leadership and the contribution of a number of other men whom history had called at this particular time as well. When one thinks of the other leaders in the world stage at that time, such as Right Hon. Winston Churchill, such as Joseph Stalin of Russia, one can appreciate how difficult a task it was. It was, it seems to me, General Eisenhower's very valuable ability to balance and keep these figures and their efforts together that made his great contribution in the interest of world peace and a world of peace in the future.

I am sure in particular those in our province who served in the Armed Forces for that period will appreciate his greatness in this respect and will mourn his loss. Everybody, moreover, will join in extending our sympathy to the family of the late General Eisenhower, the late President of the United States, and to the people of the United States at his death after a long and very severe illness.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege along with two or three thousand others one afternoon, in meeting General Eisenhower and shaking hands with him. He was certainly an impressive gentleman to meet. I think one of the great attributes of the former President was his ability to surround himself with very top men. Everybody seems to agree that he was able to run his team. I think Canadian servicemen particularly will feel that they have suffered a loss with the death of the General, and I know that every Canadian will mourn his loss.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Mr. Speaker, I should like to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) by leave of the Assembly:

That a copy of the Resolution just passed be transmitted to members of the bereaved family and to the President of the United States of America on behalf of this Assembly, by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:26 o'clock p.m.