

Canadian Wheat Board Act

market in Winnipeg are very pleased with them. No doubt the commodity fellows in Vancouver, Chicago and in a few other places will be very happy with them.

Mr. Nystrom: "Alvin and Otto".

Mr. Benjamin: They are the great twins in what I consider a betrayal of the whole principle of orderly marketing and the strengthening of Canadian grain producers in the face of the competition we get from the rest of the world. This is a sham. It will not work. The rapeseed growers' own elevator companies and their organizations say they are not interested in voluntary pools. They have been twice bitten and they are four times shy. I hope those farmer-owned grain companies will stick to their guns. I hope this legislation will prove be completely ineffectual. I hope it will be shown up for what it is—nothing more than window dressing in terms of what it will do for rapeseed producers.

This legislation is a shoring up or a strengthening of the so-called open and free market system. If the Progressive Conservative Party is sincere in its advocacy of private enterprise, it will denounce this interference with rapeseed producers who want to pool their grain voluntarily but who are compelled to stay in the pool. I would have thought that the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain would have been thundering away like a 40-mile an hour chinook; but no, he was like soft winds over still waters, supinely and docilely agreeing with the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. I never thought I would live to see the day. It was bad enough and sad enough when the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie) did the same thing. He is quite a nice fellow. But I never thought I would live to see the day when the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain would lie down so quietly and so obediently in the face of the history of both voluntary and contractual pools during the 1920's and again in 1959 and accept the minister's proposals. I always thought the Conservatives abhorred and hated the word "compulsory" or "compel".

However, the hon. member agrees that the minister should compel, through the use of an orderly marketing system and through the use of Canadian Wheat Board permit books, rapeseed producers to stay inside the pool even if the bottom drops out of the rapeseed market. They cannot volunteer out of something they volunteered into. That is inconsistent. They can volunteer in, but they cannot volunteer out. The free and open market is best, but there have to be 90 per cent government guarantees! That is inconsistent too. It does not surprise me, coming from the minister, but I would have thought that the official opposition would at least have made some passing attempt to be consistent with what is supposed to be its philosophy.

I have spoken to officials of the three wheat pools. I have spoken to rapeseed producers and grain producers generally over the past months. None of them voiced any confidence whatsoever in a volunteer pool. None of my mail has been in favour of volunteer pools. Farmers who have been in the grain growing business for decades have learned their lesson from

[Mr. Benjamin.]

history and profited from bitter experience. The prairie wheat pools profited from the bitter experience of 1959. Where is the Progressive Conservative Party, or the Liberal Party for that matter, when it comes to learning some lessons from history? It has to be one or the other; it is either the free and open market period, or it is orderly marketing under the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Nystrom: You can't be half pregnant.

Mr. Benjamin: To try to use the Canadian Wheat Board orderly marketing system and wheat board permit books to shore up the free enterprise system and to make the open market work better at the expense of grain producers is some kind of political and economic chicanery. These great believers in the free and open market do not have the courage to see if that free and open market will stand the test. They know that it has not stood the test since the late 1800's. Grain producers have lost out. Elevator companies owned by grain producers have lost out time after time, whether it was under volunteer pools, contractual pools or whatever. They know from bitter experience.

I hope the official opposition will re-think its position on this particular item. I hope for a change hon. members to my right will talk out of just one side of their mouths and say that since the majority of rapeseed producers do not want the free and open market for the marketing of rapeseed, the Conservative Party does not want it either. Since hon. members to my right are always complaining about people running around with their hands out trying to get government help, they should be the last ones to want to have a 90 per cent government guarantee of initial payments against pool proceeds which are operating on the free and open market.

It must be an insult to a genuine free and open marketer to have to ask the government to give a guarantee. If the free and open market is so good, it should be able to stand on its own feet. According to the free and open marketers, it will be of great benefit to the rapeseed producer. After all, when rapeseed prices can fluctuate from \$1.50 to \$2 in five or six weeks, all the rapeseed producer can say is that he has been fluctuated again.

It will be interesting to see how the minister continues to try to justify this legislation. There is not one bit of legitimate justification. Prior to voting on the rapeseed plebescite, the minister gave the commitment that, if the producers did not vote for a compulsory pool, he would bring in enabling legislation for a voluntary pool; so at least in that sense the man is being honest. However, I am surprised that the official opposition is supporting him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. Unless he gets unanimous consent to continue, I will have to recognize another hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.