

Dealing directly with what this government has done and is proposing to do, I asked a question regarding approval of the block system of handling grain. As a result I found that 61 per cent of the residents indicated they thought this was an improvement over the old system and only 19 per cent were of another opinion, leaving 20 per cent undecided.

The program which is causing most disappointment in my riding at the present time is Lift. The question asked was, "In your opinion was Lift a successful program?" Some 25 per cent answered yes, 67 per cent answered no and 8 per cent were undecided. The government has also taken steps in respect of what it refers to as the reform of the quota system. The question asked was, "Do you approve of the new quota system?" The response was more evenly divided in that 39 per cent said yes, 47 per cent said no and 14 per cent were undecided.

The matter of rye, flax and rapeseed is very important in relation to the legislation before us, in that it proposes to bring these grains under the provisions of this measure. The question asked was, "Do you feel rye, flax and rapeseed should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board?" In response to this question 32 per cent said yes, 57 per cent said no and 11 per cent of the respondents were undecided.

The government has also indicated it is going to make changes in handling charges for grain with a view to increasing these charges. In response to a question, 84 per cent were opposed to this step, 9 per cent approved and 7 per cent were undecided. The stabilization program envisages the termination of payments under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. In response to a question in this regard, 30 per cent approved, 47 per cent disapproved and 23 per cent were undecided.

The major legislative proposal of the government is to be found in Bill C-176. This questionnaire was conducted during the month of March and I believe the figures would be somewhat different at this time. In any event, I give the government the benefit of the doubt because I am sure its position has not been improved as a result of this legislation. The next question asked was, "Are you in favour of national marketing boards administered by the government controlling production and sales?" In response, 11 per cent said yes, 84 per cent said no and 5 per cent were undecided.

Another interesting fact disclosed by this questionnaire was the attitude these people have in respect of the Canadian Wheat Board. No one used to be critical of this board. In fact, it was something of a sacred cow in western Canada. Anyone who had the temerity to criticize it was running quite a risk because it was a popular measure at one time. As a result of the administration of this government, I find that the feeling in my constituency has changed. The question asked was, "Do you feel the Canadian Wheat Board is doing a satisfactory job?" The response was 37 per cent in favour, 55 per cent opposed and 8 per cent undecided. That is a very sad commentary on the administration of this government; 55 per cent of the farmers in my riding are not satisfied with the job they are doing.

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

This legislation creates uncertainty. Farmers will not be aware at seeding time of possible advance payments or what grains should be grown to satisfy repayment of advances obtained. This measure does not assist farmers very much. According to the minister's remarks it is designed to discourage wheat production. I do not know how the minister can reconcile this with the government's own assessment of the situation regarding wheat. In "Mini Outlook March '71", a publication of the Department of Agriculture, economics branch, we find this statement at page 26:

For the first six months of the 1970-71 crop year (ending January 27), Canadian exports were 192 million bushels compared with 120 for the similar period in 1969-70. Sales opportunities have improved this crop year. In addition, Canadian wheat is competing strongly on world markets and the government's expanded credit program has been facilitating sales to developing countries. Quantities needed for seed are likely to increase by 10 million bushels.

On page 27 of the same publication we find that there is a continuation of Canada's more competitive policy. It is very gratifying to find an admission in a government publication that we now have a more competitive policy. This would indicate that last year, the year before that or even the year before that we did not have a very competitive policy. We never could get the government to admit it was sitting on its butt at that time. The facts, however, certainly indicated that is what happened. In any event, it is nice to see it is admitted that we now have a more competitive policy. This document states, further:

• (5:50 p.m.)

With the continuation of Canada's more competitive policy, exports in 1971-72 even without the special circumstances this year, should be 350 to 400 million bushels. Total wheat disposal could, therefore, average 550 million bushels a year in 1971-72 and 1972-73. There is a good chance of high yields in 1971 because of the substantial acreage of summerfallow in 1970. Thus, 20 million acres are likely to provide adequate supplies of wheat with possibly a small reduction in stocks. An acreage exceeding 20 million could result in an undesirable increase in carry-over and also a smaller quota per acre. Unless new circumstances arise, the 1972 acreage should remain the same.

I suggest the indications are that we should be doing substantially better in respect of selling our wheat. The government probably is proving by this proposal that it is still a little behind the times concerning what will be the true situation in respect of wheat, and we could find ourselves in the same position with regard to that commodity as we did with barley. As a result of the government's action last year, we are short of barley this year and are unable to meet possible sales which would do a great deal to improve the western economy. The same authority has this to say about rapeseed, at page 34:

Rapeseed production in Canada, by November estimates, amounted to 71.3 million bushels, more than double the 1969 production of 33.4 million. At February 10, exports for the crop year were 19 million bushels compared with less than half that amount during the previous year. With Japan lifting its quota in April 1971, the prediction of last November of 35-40 million bushels seems quite a reasonable one. Prices of Canadian rapeseed have been higher than expected in late 1970 and early 1971. Vancouver cash prices in late February 1971 were about \$2.95 per bushel for No. 1 rapeseed.