

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

try, to save the government money and, if necessary, to make grain farming more expensive. This is a wrong step to be taking at this time.

This piece of legislation does one other thing. It puts flax, rapeseed and rye under the provisions of the cash advance program. As a result of this bill the farmers producing rapeseed, flax and rye will be in a position to receive cash advances. In 1968 I argued for this principle. I suggested that rye should fall within the cash advance system. I suggested that cash advances should apply in respect of all crops developed under the diversification program. At that time the minister said this grain could not be taken under the provisions of the cash advance legislation because flax, rye and rapeseed did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. I did not accept that logic or rationalization at that time and I do not accept it now.

The concept that flax, rye and rapeseed should be under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board is wrong. I hasten to state that those people responsible for the marketing of rapeseed have done a tremendous job. Rapeseed is used by the vegetable oil producing industry. This Canadian crop is in competition with other vegetable oil producing groups. Any commodity in Canada which faces such severe competition is deserving of assistance. Producers of rapeseed should be in a position to receive registered demands for this crop. Many farmers in my constituency have for years had a very dim view of the Grain Exchange. Rapeseed should be registered on the exchange in order that farmers in this country can know whether this is a good crop and the conditions under which it should be harvested. At this moment, they do not know the demand for this grain. They do not know when or at what price they should sell their crop.

Let me remind the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board that Canadian barley was being sold last fall by the Wheat Board at 20 cents per bushel less than it should have been sold. Advance sales on the world market last fall were 20 cents higher per bushel than Canadian farmers were receiving. This was a result of a lack of instant registration of the demand for barley on world markets. Because of an increase in feed grain supplies throughout the world there is often an immediate problem in the United States, but so far as these grains are concerned this demand or lack of demand is not immediately registered. As I suggested, this deficiency resulted in Canadian barley being sold at 20 cents less per bushel last fall than the market price.

● (4:20 p.m.)

There is a fear in my mind. I have no axe to grind with the Grain Exchange or the Canadian Wheat Board, but I believe I have an axe to grind for the farmers. As legislators in this House, we must set up a mechanism so that the farmers will get as much as possible on the world market for the products they produce and are able to sell. I have the fear that in respect of a crop such as rapeseed, which is in such a competitive position with the other oilseed or other vegetable oil producing crops,

[Mr. Horner.]

the demand for the product will not register as vividly as it has. I have a fear that if it comes under the Canadian Wheat Board, this is what will happen. We may sell less rapeseed for less money than ever before. It is correct that we might be able to pool the sale price so that all farmers would receive an equal amount. However, the inclusion of rye, flax and rapeseed in Bill C-239 does not encourage the growing of these crops.

A rapeseed producer does not know how much a bushel he will receive for the rapeseed stored on his farm. He does not know how much he will receive as a cash advance. That is not mentioned in the bill. This rate is set by the Governor in Council who can change it from month to month. The same is true in respect of rye and flaxseed. Flaxseed is being used extensively. I believe flax has amazed the market by its ability to sell. Originally, it was used as a base for paint. Now, actually it is not used as much for that purpose but is used to a growing extent as an additive to feed.

Mr. Lang: That is the second thing you have said which is correct.

Mr. Horner: Bully for me. Put a mark on the wall. I have said two correct things according to the minister.

Mr. Olson: Only two things in 40 minutes.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) wishes to make a contribution.

Mr. Olson: I said you have contributed two things in 40 minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I take it the debate would proceed more orderly if hon. members who wish to speak would rise in their places. Otherwise, the hon. member for Crowfoot has the floor.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, it is nice that the Minister of Agriculture would say I have said two things correctly in 40 minutes because the people in Canada, particularly in western Canada, do not believe a thing he says anymore. It does not matter, therefore, what he says. They do not think he could say one correct thing.

Mr. Boulanger: That is your opinion.

Mr. Horner: No, it is not my opinion. It is the opinion of his constituents and every farmer in western Canada.

Mr. Boulanger: That is not what they said during the election. They elected him to Parliament.

Mr. Horner: The assistant government whip who is interrupting should know there is no by-election in Assiniboia. I wonder why? They are afraid to call an election in Assiniboia.

An hon. Member: They cannot get a candidate.