

### Supply

The chain stores appear to be avoiding domestically-produced goods on a seasonal basis. They seem to prefer to import tomatoes from southern California and Mexico for 12 months of the year, rather than face the inconvenience of a three or four-month domestic production run. They tie themselves in for 12 months of the year and let the domestic industry die. The government has not provided any tariff protection to ensure that that does not happen.

Grain marketing requires a national approach as well. The Regional Marketing Board of the Canadian Wheat Board was established with the approval of producers, and in fact the power of the board was extended by the producers and the provincial and federal governments approximately in 1948 when a plebiscite was taken in at least two prairie provinces requesting that feed grains, oats and barley, be included and marketed under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. A very clear mandate was given by the producers to the various provincial and federal governments involved. They wanted their feed grains marketed by the Canadian Wheat Board.

The kind of thing which has developed from that has been unhappily watched by a great number of farmers in the west. They watched the Conservative minister of agriculture, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain, reduce the power of the Canadian Wheat Board as it applied to the marketing of feed grains, and exempt feed mills from the powers of the board. Also they watched Mr. Lang, when he was minister, extend that exemption to all feed mills across Canada and reintroduce the open market for feed grains. There was no vote. They ignored the previous vote which indicated approximately an 89 per cent support for the Wheat Board being in charge of the marketing of feed grain. There have been protestations that farmers will be asked to state their preference soon or in coming years. The policy has been in effect for about seven years, and there has been no vote and no change in policy.

A recent development was an interesting one. The advisory committees to the Canadian Wheat Board and to the Canadian Feed Board, which represented consumers from British Columbia to the eastern part of the country, both agreed unanimously that the feed grain marketing system should be put back under the auspices of the Canadian Wheat Board. Producers found it more useful. They have found they are losing between \$50 million and \$60 million per year through taking lower prices in the open market. The consumers of feed grains decided they wanted to return to feed grain marketing since they want continuity of supplies. They want to know there is a supply of feed grain awaiting them when they go out to purchase it.

● (1630)

What was the minister's response with respect to this? He has been non-committal as a result of the joint motion by the two advisory boards. He has only said, in committee, that he is in favour of orderly marketing. He has refused to specify what he means by "orderly marketing". In the research I have done

I found that in a response which he made to a study by the Saskatchewan Natural Products Marketing Council on the losses farmers had incurred in Saskatchewan because of the feed grain policy, he preferred the free market system of selling feed grain. This does nothing to unite the country. It ignores the requests and the will of the producers and consumers. It has slowed down the move, which is a necessary one, to have a national feed grain marketing agency so that we can avoid the kind of foofaraw there has been recently in Ontario where some Ontario producers became convinced they were done out of a market for barley because of Wheat Board actions. This is a development which did not seem to have been possible as time progressed. However, had the grains all been marketed under the Wheat Board, Ontario producers would have been able to participate in that market on an equal basis and would not have felt discriminated against.

As well, under the Wheat Board system we have been able to import varieties where necessary under special licence, to increase productivity or to introduce into the marketing system, in the Wheat Board area, new varieties of barley and of feed wheats which might not likely have been introduced otherwise. I think this national approach would have been of benefit in obtaining new internationally-produced varieties such as Summit barley, Klages barley and Glenlea wheat. This would have avoided some of the reactions we are now receiving from maritime farmers who think they are being left out when it comes to having new high-yielding varieties available to them. They have been sold on the idea of having a type of plant breeders rights system. Most of the benefits of plant breeders rights are available to the producers of Canada now through the Wheat Board, marketing boards, and seed marketing institutions, if we will use them.

When it comes to a national approach in uniting the country, we can look to potato marketing. We again see a regional approach with respect to this. Five provinces in eastern Canada are setting up a situation in which the east will be pitted against the west. Processors are making ready, they are prepared, and the processing industry is already moving out west. That industry has seen the writing on the wall. They have decided to become entrenched with an alternative system further west. They have attempted to and are already moving to develop a countervailing source of supply in the event that the regional eastern agency is established and does become partially successful in influencing price.

We have seen the same kind of non-attention given to national marketing with respect to agricultural policy as it applies to pork marketing. Eight of the provinces have provincial marketing boards. There is a need for a national agency with a national approach. In the interim, the trade, the processing industry and the feed manufacturing industry are shifting, not west this time, as is happening with the potato industry, but they have shifted east into the province of Quebec.

The open market feed grain policy and the lack of a national pork marketing policy have created a climate where an alternative system is developing and flourishing in an attempt to