

wants, and I will speak with him personally on the matter so that he may judge himself.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Given the exchange of comments, we will proceed to third reading.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lachance moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It being five o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

SUGGESTED EXPANSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of expanding the Canadian Wheat Board into a Canadian Grains Board, placing the major grains, wheat, oats, barley, rye, rapeseed, corn and soybeans under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Grains Board and under the quota system including full responsibility for the marketing of all feed grains delivered to primary elevators in Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce this motion to the House today—perhaps I should say reintroduce this motion to the House today, since a similar motion has been put before this House on a number of occasions, once by my colleague, the hon. member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), and by other members of my party.

All parts of Canada are faced with the solving of problems which have been created by the technological age in which we live. Not the least of these problems is the marketing and distribution of grain, with which this motion deals. In the larger world picture we are faced with forecasts which indicate a doubling of the world population before the end of the century. We are faced with the growth of population where even today millions of people live in hunger.

Our capacity for food production in Canada is not functioning to the maximum. Even in Canada malnutrition and poverty continue to exist. Canada is blessed with the ability to produce much more food than is necessary for our own requirements. We have committed ourselves to the world as a net exporter of food, particularly grains. We have built out farm economy in the west on providing these grains to the rest of the world. We know the rest of the world needs them and it therefore should be providing and developing a distribution system which can offset the growing threat of world hunger.

Canadian Wheat Board

In the last year we have seen food, particularly grain, used as a political weapon. Both the official opposition, when they were in power, and the present government, bowed to the political might of the United States and agreed to an embargo on grain shipped to the Soviet Union. It is my contention, and that of many in my party, that food should never be used as a political weapon against another country. This policy was adopted by our party in a motion put forward by Alf Gleave, the former member from Saskatoon-Biggar. I am proud to support that motion. I condemn the government for waiting eight months before realizing that this embargo was hurting Canada's reputation as a grain exporter. In a food embargo, only the poor and the hungry suffer and animosity between the countries increases.

● (1710)

Food should be used as an instrument of peace. Canada, as a net food producer, should recognize its moral obligation to assist in feeding the world within the limits of good land husbandry. The provision of an effective marketing and distribution system will help us to fulfil that obligation.

Today's motion deals with an area of food distribution known as grain marketing. While I was growing up on a farm in northern Saskatchewan during the 1920s and the 1930s, the scourge of the farmers, particularly the small farmer, was the fact that wheat and other grains were subject to a great deal of speculation by members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. The effect of that speculation, pure and simple, was to rob the farmer.

I can remember my father selling wheat for \$1 per bushel in the fall, a time when he needed money and therefore had to sell, and it sold for \$2 per bushel in the spring, when my father had no grain left to sell. This meant that my father received only \$1 per bushel for his investment which was the use of his land and all his hard work. Whether or not this was enough money, the fact is my father had no alternative but to sell in the fall. Consequently, his grain went into the system at \$1 per bushel. This was at a time when very little was needed for transportation and handling. Therefore, someone who provided no work, no investment, no land or any productivity of any kind took the rest of the money. In many cases these people did not even risk the loss of their own money, because they would buy on margin and would not be required to own the grain on which they made their money.

This speculation was one of the reasons for the establishment of the original Canadian Wheat Board. However, the motion before us today is not aimed particularly at speculation, but is intended to point out the need for a stable and orderly marketing system. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board, Senator Argue, have come out often and loudly in support of orderly marketing. Most farmers and the New Democratic Party wholeheartedly agree with the ministers on this position. Our main concern is that it seems to be all talk and no action. There seems to be a great deal of equivocation on the part of the Minister of Agriculture. For example, the