

*Wheat Acreage Reduction*

and to do so in such a way that the government will assist the farmers. I am sure that would be of interest to those members of the opposition who have claimed that farmers have a great quantity of wheat on their hands. Certainly those farmers will have to participate in the program, though their return will be somewhat less than if they grew a full crop which was sold.

About two-thirds or 75 per cent of farmers in western Canada have enough grain on hand to fill their quota for the balance of this year and the subsequent year without growing any more grain. During this period these farmers will also receive the cash receipts from the sale of that grain. I do not know whether the export figure this year will reach 375 million bushels, plus domestic consumption, or whether the figure will be a little higher or a little lower. But the money for the sale of this grain will go to the farmers in addition to the \$6 an acre paid to reduce inventory and the \$4 for forage.

The Minister without Portfolio has said this a dozen times already, but it should be borne in mind that if the program is successful, part of its success will be due to the fact that probably between 375 million and 500 million bushels, comprising both export sales and domestic sales, will be sold from the existing grain inventory; and, as I said, the cash from those sales will go to the farmers. This is a matter that should not be forgotten.

When the regulations have been compiled and the administrative machinery set up, we shall be making special efforts through the media, through press conferences and through direct mailing to make sure that all farmers who could be affected by the program will be given the fullest information. In addition to that, since I do not think it will be possible to anticipate every type of circumstance, we think it might be desirable to set up some kind of appeal board to which a farmer may have resort if he feels the regulations do not fully cover this particular situation. For example, there is a board of review constituted under the PFAA at the present time; there are appeal procedures in regard to the Farm Credit Corporation, and so on.

There are many other arguments I could advance, but in conclusion may I say—

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister for some information before he concludes? Would he explain who is going to administer the wheat acreage reduction program? Will it

be the Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Wheat Board, or some other body? Also, who will set the regulations?

**Mr. Olson:** The regulations will be worked out by the Department of Agriculture in consultation with the Minister without Portfolio as well as the grains group which has been making a major input into the program. As far as administration is concerned, the Department of Agriculture, mainly through PFAA machinery, will administer the wheat reduction payments. They will receive the applications, do the on-farm inspections and make the payments. The Canadian Wheat Board will deal with the permit books that will be issued. Obviously, there will have to be very close liaison between these two bodies to make certain that the information provided by individual producers is the same on the application for reduction payments as it is in the permit book allocation of acreage for the various crops that will be grown.

I suppose hon. members opposite, and also some of the farmers, will be able to point to extreme cases from time to time not precisely provided for in the regulations. We intend to design these regulations in a way that will achieve the objectives of the over-all program and at the same time be fair to farmers who made adjustments last year and to those who are involved with what is in their permit books for the 1969-70 selling season. Of course, we have to make a beginning from the figures which are in the 1969-70 permit books and make any changes from that position. After all, this is primarily designed as a wheat reduction program, that is, in respect of the inventory and we have to make some beginning. When these regulations and the explanatory documents or circulars I have been talking about are ready, we will obviously see that all members of the House get them as soon as they are mailed to the farmers.

● (10:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the minister? What is the long-range intention in relation to the setting of quotas beyond 1970-71? Obviously, the fact that you are talking about 1969 summer fallow and considering the 1970-71 crop or summer fallow for 1970 means something. How will this affect the quotas that are currently on seeded acreage, and other considerations? How will it affect the quotas for the following year?