

Supply—Agriculture

to be in the best interests of the producers, it is of even greater importance to be positive, and the agriculture industry of this country at the present time needs positive action by the federal government. The Leader of the Opposition was in Saskatchewan a few days ago and had the opportunity to meet the farm leaders and to talk with a number of farm organization members. We feel that the agriculture program which we presented to the Canadian people in the last federal election was a good one. We think it is a good one today. We think there will be important improvements and additions to this program when it is presented in the coming general election. It is the kind of program which should commend itself to farmers and farm organizations. I shall have an opportunity in this coming week to be in Saskatchewan attending the Saskatchewan farmers' union convention, and it is my hope that I can speak with delegates to that convention and ascertain from them any changes which they feel are necessary at this time in their own agriculture program and in the program which is to be presented to parliament in the years ahead.

The Minister of Agriculture attended the Saskatchewan wheat pool convention in Regina and at that convention the wheat pool adopted an agriculture program. This program is printed in the *Western Producer* and I would hope that the *Western Producer* would think that comments on policy from the Liberal party are important and deserving of attention, just as it has felt in the past that comments by the Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for Rosthern and others are worthy of attention. The Saskatchewan wheat pool's first proposal, the first plank in an 11 point program, urged the federal government to bolster grain sales through extension of credit and concessional sales to countries unable to buy for cash. Well, it was the Liberal party which began this program years ago and we certainly heartily endorse this feature of the program. The second paragraph reads:

2. Urged the maintenance of the Canadian wheat board as a single selling agency for Canadian grain; asked that its authority be extended to buy flax and rapeseed.

The purpose of this clause is to strengthen the Canadian wheat board. We on this side feel the Canadian wheat board should be strengthened, and at the earliest opportunity on reaching the treasury benches there would be consultation with the farm organizations as to how the wheat board might best be strengthened. We would not do what was done by hon. members opposite a few months

ago namely, reduce the jurisdiction and authority of the board. The program continues:

3. Called for a two-price system for Canadian wheat.

That is in the Liberal agriculture program and has been well spelled out.

4. Expressed support for the international wheat agreement as the best means of protecting the interests of both producers and consumers.

In the time of the late Right Hon. C. D. Howe, international wheat agreements were presented to this house periodically and this is certainly a proposal which would continue to get the support of the Liberal party of Canada.

The next one is:

5. Urged the Canadian government to provide greater support for the world food program of the United Nations—

This too, has the full support of the Liberal party. Let it be remembered that it was the Leader of the Opposition who chaired an international commission which had as its result the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a major step forward in the accomplishment of this particular objective. So naturally we are delighted to read this proposal in the wheat pool program. Then, next:

6. Supported the elimination of barriers to international trade and urged Canada to take the lead in the reduction of such barriers.

In opposition as well as in government, the Liberal party has gone forward in the direction of freer and freer trade. In this we are diametrically opposed to this government, which has become well known for erecting tariff barriers, quotas, surcharges and every other device used by a Conservative government to reduce trade.

Mr. Chairman, my time is limited, but the next recommendation is to reaffirm its conviction that the grain marketing plant for western Canada should be considered and protected in any program of rail line rationalization. That is paraphrasing No. 7, because my time is limited; but it is certainly a proposal which has the support of this party. As a matter of fact we would broaden it to include farmers and other business establishments along railway lines.

8. Gave support to the principles of the agricultural rehabilitation and development administration—

It was the Liberal party who initiated the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, which up to this time has done so much good work in the field of land utilization; so we welcome this proposal. We go one step further and say that P.F.R.A. should be maintained and expanded, and the federal government under