

The initial payments for the grades of wheat, barley and oats other than basic grades mentioned will be established by the Canadian Wheat Board and announced at a later date.

I should like to add, Mr. Speaker, that a newsletter will be mailed to all prairie grain producers in the next few days indicating crop prospects, acreage guidelines, and minimum quota levels for the 1972-73 crop year. A minimum total delivery by producers of 505 million bushels of wheat, 260 million bushels of barley, and 13 million bushels of oats is assured in the coming crop year. These are minimum deliveries and if sales require increased deliveries, additional quotas will be opened.

I apologize to hon. members opposite for the shortness of the notice I was able to give them of this matter. However, the very good news of the large sale to the Soviet Union required us to do some final work on that matter. I am sure hon. members opposite will support the high levels of grain which will be received next year as a minimum and also the increase in the initial price for barley.

**Mr. Baldwin:** When will the government learn how to deliver the grain? How about transportation?

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, as is evident from some "heehaws" we heard in the House when the minister announced the mailing of the newsletter, it is quite obvious that we will take it with more than a grain of salt. We will treat it with the respect that it deserves prior to an election.

**Mr. Knowles:** This is all being done at government expense.

**Mr. Korchinski:** May I point out it is evident that the minister was very reluctant to increase—

**An hon. Member:** Very happy.

**Mr. Korchinski:**—the price of spring wheat. It is evident that there is no prospect for an increase in wheat prices in the year ahead. It is also evident, therefore, that next year, as pointed out in studies which have been made, there will be no increase in wheat prices. Despite the minister's reassurance that there will be more sales we are not very happy because in the end result it is what you get for your product that really counts. We know that the price of other products has risen. We want the price of our product to rise also, and a prospective increase for wheat is not evident from the minister's statement.

The payment announced for barley is very interesting. A year ago we were told that a certain price would be paid for barley. Then the Canadian Wheat Board committed itself to a certain level of shipments. It was not able to meet that commitment because farmers were getting a higher price from other sources than they could get from the Wheat Board. Consequently, they were not delivering to the Wheat Board. The Wheat Board had to increase the price by ten cents. There was an interim payment. That ten cent increase resulted in a \$10 million deficit for the pool account. This year the increase is not 10 cents but 5 cents.

### *Grain Payments*

• (1420)

With regard to oats, only 13 million bushels are involved, which is neither here nor there. One can almost completely disregard the amount of oats as they will be used entirely within this country.

Regardless of what assurances the minister may give, transportation of grain in and outside our country must always be foremost. This has been quite evident in the last year. The stabilization bill also enters into this announcement if the minister is going to propose stabilization in the manner he proposed it before. The barley producers would have lost the \$10 million under that proposal, and the government has to make up the difference.

May I make one other point. No encouragement for the production of wheat is to be found in the price. The farmers are getting about 40 cents less than they were in 1967-68, and there is no encouragement at all. Even if the price had been increased by 10 cents I do not think anyone would grab for it, but it would have committed the government. It would have indicated that perhaps the government is optimistic about markets and opportunities to sell grain at a higher price.

Although we welcome the fact that the minister has announced prices, we wonder why a statement has been made in this case when the minister merely tabled a report the other day on the sale of wheat to Russia. On this occasion he made comments. If we are going to play a fair ballgame, if the Minister of Justice is going to be a minister of justice, and if justice means anything to him, he should realize that comments on all aspects of grain sales, which are paramount to the total income of not only the Canadian producers but also the—I am sorry Mr. Speaker, but I am being interrupted.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I might take this opportunity to interrupt the hon. member for a moment and remind him of the requirements of the Standing Order. From time to time I take the opportunity to remind hon. members that the Standing Order as drafted requires members making comments on ministerial statements to be brief. Sometimes it is difficult to interpret the term "brevity", but I hope the hon. member will consider bringing his remarks to a conclusion as soon as possible.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I appreciate Your Honour's comments. I will only be another minute. When the Solicitor General (Mr. Goyer) took a fairly long time to make a statement the other day I thought that this was an acceptable procedure of the House.

I only want to say I do not think the minister gave any indication that there will be an increase in revenue for the western grain producers. Every indicator shows that they will have reduced incomes. The 5 cents which the minister has offered on barley will certainly be very discouraging even for the barley producers because of the \$10 million loss last year. In other words, they might as well get out of the business.

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, at least the minister is coming into the House with forecasts and is stating what he considers to be reasonable objectives that farmers can meet this year. I hope this may indicate that the minister has returned to the basic con-