

between 1,300 and 1,400 western farmers who are being brought before the courts at the initiative of the Canadian Wheat Board for breaking the laws of Canada. Rapeseed growers market their product under contract to Western Canadian Seed Processors in Alberta and to other similar processing plants in Manitoba and Saskatchewan which within agreed and authorized limits purchase the farmers' rapeseed production.

Specifically I refer to a farmer named William Reid Thompson, not related to me, who farms in the community of Olds, Alberta. On March 3 he was issued with delivery authorization No. 2959 by Western Canadian Seed Processors in the amount of 900 bushels. On March 9 he had delivered 388 bushels of rapeseed to the Western Canadian Seed Processors' plant at Lethbridge, some 200 miles away, that delivery being part of a truckload. His Canadian wheat permit No. 0088947163, had previously been delivered to the Western Canadian Seed Processors' plant.

The Canadian Wheat Board had allotted him 60 quota acres which amounted to 1,200 bushels of rapeseed. However, his delivery amounts had not been entered into the permit book because a representative of the Canadian Wheat Board had seized his permit book from the office of Western Canadian Seed Processors' plant; thus he had not been informed of the amount still deliverable under his quota. The 388 bushels delivered on March 9 turned out to be 104.8 bushels in excess of his quota.

On April 10 the Canadian Wheat Board mailed to Mr. Thompson a duplicate of his permit book, informing him for the first time of the amount delivered against the permit book and also informing him of the 104.8 bushels overdelivery. On May 3 Mr. Thompson received a summons instructing him to attend court on Thursday, May 18, he having been charged with delivering 104.8 bushels of rapeseed in excess of the quota established by the Canadian Wheat Board. The trial has been held over until June 1 at the request of the plaintiff.

This is a ridiculous, intolerable and illogical situation, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** This farmer, along with hundreds of others, entered into a contract with Western Seed Processors Ltd. The farmers have been told to find crops alternative to wheat and barley. Many have done so by growing rapeseed, as did this particular farmer. They have also found their own market. Their delivery authorization is based on the home market available for oil products. They did not ask that rapeseed be included under the authority of the Canadian Wheat Board, nor were they consulted about it.

Is it not unreasonable in the extreme that now these farmers must be penalized under a control system which does not realistically apply to this type of enterprise? This is a situation in which a federal government agency, under a policy developed by this bureaucratic administration, is advising farmers of this country to grow certain products, controlling when and how to sell them, and then the farmers are treated like common criminals when they defend their right to market a farm-grown product for which they themselves have found markets.

#### *Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

Every bushel of rapeseed which is processed through seed processing and crushing plants is used for domestic consumption. The quotas imposed by the Wheat Board are restricting their production. There is an estimated carryover of between 40 million and 50 million bushels of rapeseed from last year's crop. Yet every bushel of this amount which can be used on the local market reduces the amount of this carryover.

Mr. Speaker, why are quota restrictions placed on rapeseed that is used for home consumption? The Wheat Board does not do any rapeseed marketing. It is exercising control only over the delivery system. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) and the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Lang) say that this is necessary. It could be necessary for rapeseed which is sold directly on the export market, but it is certainly not necessary for that used in home consumption. I am talking about the quotas for farmers. Strangely enough, there is no quota on sunflower or mustard seed or on soybeans, the latter being imported to this country from the United States and the oil of which is used for making vegetable oils. Is this justice in a just society? Farmers also must now plan what they are to grow next year, and they don't know what to sow. Rapeseed does not enter the elevator system, nor does it take up space at terminals. It does not require rail cars or use railway facilities; it is trucked directly to the plant on an agreed contract basis.

Last May when we dealt with legislation which would make it possible for flax, rye and rapeseed to be brought under the Canadian Wheat Board the minister, answering protests from this side of the House, said that the government did not plan any action toward bringing the marketing of rapeseed, flaxseed and rye under the control of the Canadian Wheat Board at that time. He went on to say in a press release dated May 11:

I repeat, the government has no immediate plan to change the marketing system for these grains. And I assure producers that before any such change is contemplated there will be thorough discussions with everyone involved.

Now, without any reference to farmers, without any consultation and without their even being informed, one of the grains at least has been brought under the control of the Wheat Board, even that which is to be used in the home market and which has been a source of cash for the farmer. In a bureaucratic way, the government is interfering with the diversification of crops.

It seems to me that if there is any justice left in this country, if there is any sense of responsibility or honesty left in the government, it must instruct the Wheat Board to drop these charges and work out an equitable system with the farmers themselves. To allow this case and 1,400 similar cases to proceed through the courts, treating these farmers as criminals, is wrong.

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, this is only one aspect of the larger question of quota deliveries to the oilseed crushers which we are currently reviewing. However, I should like to point out that there have been no prosecutions under the Criminal Code.

**Mr. Thompson:** They were summonsed under the Criminal Code. He was brought to court under it.