

Canadian Wheat Board Act

and 9 per cent interest. So, if he is to play the future's market, the interest he must pay on borrowed money will become another charge that his farming operation must bear, and a very unproductive charge it is, Mr. Speaker. If a farmer wants to do this, and very few do, he would probably do it, or need to do it, early in the fall when he is fairly short of cash. So, as I say, he must borrow the money, pay the interest on it, and play this market if he wants to protect himself against falling prices or, as they say in the trade, if he is to insure a price that is going on that particular day. This is a fairly cumbersome system and, so far as I know, not many producers use it.

This House must give the farmer the opportunity to choose; that is all. Let us give him that opportunity. Let the producer decide what kind of system he wants. After all—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Does the House give its unanimous consent to allowing the hon. member to complete his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I had practically completed my remarks. In conclusion I say, let the producer choose. Give him the choice. That is what I say in my motion. Let him exercise his choice through his organizations or, directly, through his vote. Let him choose whether he prefers this or that kind of system. The choice should be his. At present, he is not given the opportunity to exercise that choice, and he ought to be given that opportunity. After all, the facts are well known, as I said earlier. One need not hunt for them; they are available for anyone who wants to look at them. A few hours research is all that is needed, because the facts are out in the open.

Let me repeat what I have said. I say to this House and to the minister, give the producer a choice. Do not tell him what to do. Give him the facts and let him make the choice. If you do that for the western farmer he will, from my experience, make a pretty intelligent decision.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can agree with one important point which the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) made in speaking to his motion, namely, that consideration of this issue concerning the marketing of rapeseed, particularly, deserves reason and rationality rather than the heat which this issue has tended to generate in days gone by. In order to bring about additional understanding of the problem, I appointed a committee to study the rapeseed marketing system. It was a committee composed of two distinguished producers and a member from the rapeseed association. It was directed to look at the way the existing marketing system is operating and to make recommendations for possible changes and improvements.

At all times it had been my position that the manner of marketing rapeseed should, indeed, be chosen by the producers, although that, perhaps, is oversimplifying the

[Mr. Gleave.]

position since it is not easy to define a producer or to determine the opinion of the producer on an issue as complicated as this. In any event, it was my position that it was up to the producer to make that marketing decision with respect to his product and that we ought then to co-operate by having available the necessary mechanisms for marketing producers' products in the manner they chose.

The marketing committee I set up came forward with a certain number of recommendations concerning the existing marketing system for rapeseed. Many of those recommendations have since been put into effect. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) referred to an exchange of correspondence with the grain exchange. This was part of a group of discussions and exchanges with the Canadian Wheat Board and other bodies concerned with the grain trade, and all these were in line with the recommendations made by the committee. Many recommendations that committee made have been put into operation, resulting in an improved marketing situation for rapeseed at present.

The committee looked at the question of the board market versus the open market and concluded that, indeed, producers' views should be ascertained on this matter. It concluded that those views ought to be a factor in any decision but that, before producers could properly turn their attention to this question, more work ought to be done in examining alternative systems, namely, board markets, pooling systems, and the open market. Information was needed to which producers might have access in order that they might understand the various alternative systems available and make their choice intelligently.

I trust that the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar has read the subsequent report that followed from that recommendation. After receiving the recommendation from what I have always thought was an extremely good committee, I asked the members to turn around, so to speak, analyze the systems mentioned and to produce a summary of that analysis for producers. This has been done and, accordingly, the outcome of the study regarding the various systems of marketing rapeseed, including the presently existing system, is available to producers. Producers' organizations have taken that report and summarized it for wider distribution to producers generally. I recommend it to the hon. member and to all who are interested in this subject. I ought to add that few people have suggested anything other than that the committee did an extremely good job in this field. I recommend the report to all people interested in problems that might be encountered in marketing of this type. Any people so interested, I suggest might with more advantage read that report than the analysis given us by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar—and I say that with all respect.

This is not a simple matter. It is a complicated matter and, therefore, the report is also complicated. For that reason, I have felt it appropriate to take some further time before determining what is the opinion of producers on this issue. It is significant in my mind that producers' organizations have tended to veer from positions they previously adopted. At one time many of them flatly recommended that rapeseed, flax and rye ought to be brought under the Canadian Wheat Board. Many now