

*Canadian Wheat Board Act*

**Mr. McIntosh:** He may have sold the CCF on this idea, but he has not sold the Conservative party.

**Mr. Rose:** Or Mao Tse-tung.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You mean the NDP.

**Mr. McIntosh:** I just said he was out-socializing the socialists, and that is hard to do.

**An hon. Member:** Look under your bed, Jack, and there will be Mao Tse-tung.

**Mr. Perrault:** On with the speech.

**Mr. McIntosh:** If you knew where I stay, I had better look up than down.

**Mr. Rose:** I guess he is above you.

**An hon. Member:** Where are you?

**Mr. McIntosh:** I don't know. I don't have any place to go from there.

We on this side are tired of the minister's pleas on television and radio. We are tired of his lecturing us as he did last evening. He would get 100 per cent co-operation if he would use his learning as a law professor to analyse the situation which exists and relate the fact that a record amount of grain has been sold to the economic situation on the Prairies.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McIntosh:** The farmers on the Prairies cannot eat records: they must have money to eat. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) is another who is familiar with the effects of agriculture policies on the Prairies. I do not know the source of his information or knowledge, but he must have been closely associated with the minister at one time or another because their thoughts are very much on the same lines. They contend that farm leaders and others who try to give them good ideas and suggest ways of getting their legislation through the House in an easy manner are raising unnecessary fears.

They know we can support some part of the bills they bring forward, and if we do not support the whole of the legislation they condemn us on radio and television. It is too bad the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) is not here tonight. I say to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board that those tactics are not going over in western Canada. If he does not know it now he will certainly know it shortly, judging by the number of coupons which are coming in to our offices, if they are any indication of the disturbance being created out there by the tactics these people are trying to employ.

Like other members on this side, I commend the minister for bringing in these provisions making changes in the grading system. This is something which has been needed for a long time, something our customers have wanted. But with regard to the inclusion of rapeseed, and so on, I say he would be well advised to listen to the suggestions which have been made to him and drop those

[Mr. Rose.]

particular provisions from the bill. As he says, they are not to be used right now; there is no need for them right now; as long as he is minister they will not be used. Why, then, is such a provision made in the legislation? The minister forgets he may not be responsible for the Wheat Board for very long. Indeed, he may not be a member from the Prairies for very long.

**Mr. Horner:** According to Doug Fisher.

**Mr. McIntosh:** That is beside the point. I cannot understand how he believed we would buy a package such as this; how he can tell those who will be directly affected by this legislation that it will never be used. If it will never be used, why put it in the bill in the first place? Why not wait until we hear more from the people concerned? We know there is an argument on both sides, but I do not think anyone can as yet determine whether or not these other products should be under the control of the Wheat Board.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (9:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rose to take part in this debate thinking that I would not be recognized, but I should like to give expression to some thoughts that passed through my mind this afternoon and during the earlier part of this evening in regard to just which of the government or official opposition parties is on the side of the angels, and which is not. One gets the impression that they are on both sides.

Clause 5 of this bill repeals section 35 of the act and substitutes therefor the following:

35. (1) The Governor in Council may by regulation extend the application of Part III or Part IV or of both Parts III and IV to any or all of oats, barley, rye, flaxseed or rapeseed or to all of them.

I gather that means that the minister and his colleagues in the government may or may not bring these products under the sole jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. This afternoon the minister agreed that the major farm organizations representing the grain producers support the provisions of the bill and agree that the Canadian Wheat Board should have jurisdiction over rye, flaxseed and rapeseed. Then the minister proceeded to say that a plebiscite should be held, that there should be a thorough investigation made and all questions that need to be asked should be asked and answers given before we decide whether these three grains should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board.

I suggest the minister cannot have it both ways. Neither can the official opposition. Either they are in favour of a compulsory, universal, or whatever you may call it, orderly system of marketing grain or they are not, and I think it is time they said which it is. You can hold plebiscites and referendums all you want. The fact remains that the three prairie Wheat Pools, the Federations of Agriculture, the National Farmers Union and the provincial branches thereof, plus—as an afterthought—the CCF and New Democratic Party since 1935 have been saying that these grains should be under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board.