

GRAINS GROUP ESTABLISHED

The Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Otto E. Lang, made the following announcement recently:

The world supply and demand for wheat during the past two years has presented very serious problems for Western grain producers and the Government has initiated a number of policies designed to assist producers during this difficult period. The doubling of interest-free cash advances, improved credit facilities for exports and a fixed price for wheat sold for human consumption in Canada are examples of these policies.

Basic problems remain to be resolved. On October 15 last year, the Prime Minister announced that the complexities of international grain-marketing problems, combined with the importance of the grain trade to the Canadian economy, had led to the decision to make grain marketing a focus of effort by a minister without general departmental responsibilities.

At that time, the Prime Minister announced that I would assume responsibility for the Canadian Wheat Board and would focus attention on grain issues generally.

COMPOSITION OF GROUP

The issues that must be dealt with during the months ahead require the complete co-ordination of the increased efforts of the departments and agencies of the Government concerned with the grain industry. This will be accomplished through a Grains Group which I have established through the co-operation of the Departments of Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Commerce and Transport and agencies related to these Departments. This Group will provide a focus for the development of policies and programs for the grain industry.

The Group is now in operation and it will continue to operate until the pressing issues requiring initiation by the Government have been dealt with.

I will act as Chairman of the Grains Group. I am grateful for the enthusiastic co-operation of my colleagues, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, of Agriculture and of Transport. With their co-operation I will direct the Government initiative in the development of grains policies and programs. The Group will work on a continuous, co-ordinated and intensified basis to ensure that these policies and programs are developed as quickly as possible and with the best possible input of resources available to the Government.

I have emphasized my role and the role of the Grains Group in intensifying and co-ordinating effort within the Government. I must make equally clear the importance attached to the role of organizations

outside Government in the effort that is being initiated. The existence of the Grains Group will provide a focus for discussion on grain matters between these organizations and the Government. The Group will seek the advice and assistance of these organizations, particularly the Grains Council, in the coming months.

There has been a great deal of study given to many of the issues facing the grain industry. The Task Force on Agriculture will report very soon, and the Canada Grains Council is initiating research on various problems facing the industry. The research and recommendations of these bodies will be of great assistance to the Government.

The Group which has now been established is designed primarily for action. It will of course study some individual problems, but the studies carried on by it and on its behalf will be directed toward the implementation of policy as early as possible.

The issues facing the grain industry are difficult. The situation of grain producers in the Western provinces particularly is critical. I am optimistic that this new initiative will lead to improvement in the situation of the producers and the economic health of the industry as a whole.

WOMEN GRADUATES SPURNED?

Women graduates are denied the opportunity of competing, even on their own university campuses, for two-thirds of the jobs for which graduates are recruited, according to Miss Sylva M. Gelber, Director of the Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labor, in a paper entitled *Highly Qualified Manpower Policies and the Canadian Woman Graduate: What Price Discrimination?* The author referred to recruiting material proving that many of the larger firms in Canada refused even to interview female graduates for 2,024 out of 3,268 vacancies offered.

Speaking at a recent lunch meeting of the Beth Tzedec Sisterhood in Toronto, Miss Gelber suggested that industry re-examine the grounds on which it based its policy of limiting recruitment for executive positions to male graduates.

She challenged the grounds on which industry justified such "discrimination", mentioning, in particular, allegations of higher "turnover rates" among female executives than of male executives. She discussed the implications for national and international manpower policies of such recruiting practices.

"If society is not yet ready to accept the view that in justice women graduates should have the same career opportunities as their male colleagues, let us at least endeavor to persuade those responsible for the economic well-being of our country that this waste of highly qualified manpower is untenable," Miss Gelber said.