

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

because of press releases that came out of a meeting in Winnipeg in so far as the rapeseed market was concerned. My personal reason for concern is along the line that surely the information this government now has in respect of rapeseed markets around the world should be made available to the producers.

I would like to quote a few items from the *Western Producer* of February 26. In it is stated that Mr. A. M. Runciman, president of the Rapeseed Association of Canada—

—recognized another million acres could easily be added by farmers seeking an alternative to wheat. This could throw rapeseed—and sunflowers too—into a marketing crisis. “And rapeseed would lie like wheat, barley and oats in the bins, year after year, unsold, unless farmers were willing to take \$1.25 prices.”

He warned the trade to get ready to market the biggest rapeseed crop ever and called for co-operation at all levels in the marketing picture—

A panel of speakers representing every phase of the rapeseed industry from producer to processor to handler to exporter echoed Mr. Runciman's call for action—

—an exporter with James Richardson and Sons ... said with a proper selling job it could be handled.

He stressed that much more would have to be done than is being done at present to move a crop of that magnitude.

This is why I posed a supplementary question to the minister to see whether he could give a more thorough answer to that question. I am sure the rapeseed producers do not want to find themselves in the same position as other grain farmers, having to cut back production. The government has done a tremendous amount of work in researching agricultural problems. I would like to know, has it really looked into rapeseed production in this country to determine whether production will surpass the amount required for world consumption?

It seems to me that at their meeting in Winnipeg rapeseed producers were seeking to co-operate with the government. I quote again from the *Western Producer* where another producer—

—charged that rapeseed markets had been lost because “people outside the industry are involved in making decisions as to how grain movement takes place.”

He was sincere in his belief that the producers of rapeseed should have a say in the over-all marketing of it. Another rapeseed producer said:

A big increase in rapeseed crop could spell disaster to a large number of producers who don't recognize that price times volume minus expenses equals a profit.

[Mr. Skoberg.]

Their main concern is that they must have information about where they are going with regard to the market at this time. All I am asking the minister tonight is to try and give an indication to those hon. members still in the House at this time, especially after the long session yesterday, of what is really the situation with respect to rapeseed markets throughout the world. If we run into the same position as wheat farmers, with statements being made overseas that our grain is not of the quality that world markets demand, rapeseed producers will have a big problem. They are asking for information and they want it now. The last thing we want at this time is to have the rapeseed football fumbled to the extent that we will lose some of our best markets.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I hope I can give this information in the little time that I have at my disposal tonight. I would advise the hon. member that the outlook papers were published after the conference in November and they have been available to the hon. member and to the industry. Furthermore, the Newsletter we published on December 5 dealt in part with rapeseed prospects, as did the Newsletter for the week ending February 27.

The outlook indicates that an increase of 10 per cent to 15 per cent in acreage giving normal yields could be marketed without adversely affecting prices. However, there are many other factors that could affect the price of rapeseed. On the side of stability are the following:

(a) The chief competitor of rapeseed is soybeans. The United States stabilized soybean prices through a support program and they have recently announced a continuation of the program for this year at the same level as last year.

(b) Canada is the world's biggest export trader in rapeseed. Our main trade is with Japan, followed by the EEC and the U.K. These are all developing markets.

• (10:10 p.m.)

Factors that would affect price stabilization adversely are that European seeding is up, particularly in Poland and East Germany. This is a winter rapeseed and those areas are now known. However, cropping and harvesting conditions could greatly affect the over-all yield. It will be recalled that unfavourable harvesting conditions last year reduced yields sharply. We believe rapeseed prices, at least