

the agriculture committee, I was naïve enough to actually believe this was the way policy was decided. I actually believed the parties sat down and tried to come to some solutions to the problems of the country. The decision has been made. It is all tied up in a neat package. The minister responsible for the Wheat Board asks what we would do. He wants information and ideas. At the eleventh hour, he will go to the conference in Calgary with the same request. When the ministers of agriculture meet in Charlottetown, they will be asked the same thing. The minister knows full well all the decisions were made a long time ago.

● (0020)

I received a telegram tonight from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool which purchases and handles two-thirds of the wheat in the Province of Saskatchewan and which is very concerned about the situation. A board meeting was held, and the telegram I received measures probably 30 inches in length. It is the longest telegram I have ever received and I am sure it is an indication of the concern the people of western Canada and particularly of that province feel about the rumour.

I was talking on the telephone to someone from Saskatchewan today. I questioned my caller as to whether he was serious. I assured him no one would try to take feed grains out of the control of the Wheat Board. He said "Yeah, that's what we thought when they talked about Lift too. I was in Ottawa when they talked about Lift and we all laughed about it. Several months later we found out it was true." The people in Saskatchewan are understandably just a bit touchy when they hear these rumours, regardless of how ridiculous they may appear to be. They are not about to take them lightly after the experience they have had.

I would now like to read a portion of the telegram from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to which I have referred.

The Board noted rumours that complete jurisdiction over grain used for feed—oats, barley and wheat—may no longer rest with the Canadian Wheat Board. They said discussions with people throughout the province have indicated that western farmers will not stand for any action that substantially changes the Wheat Board's function.

The Board claimed Hon. Otto Lang, minister responsible for the Board and the Hon. Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, have had chances to lay to rest fears about the feed grain question, but have not done so. They have given assurances that any new system for feed grains would not harm the west, but on the specific issue of Wheat Board control there has been no meaningful comment.

In Canada, the Board of Directors said, a systems approach for grain handling has been developed built around a strong central marketing authority, the Canadian Wheat Board. The Board administers quotas, co-ordinates transportation, acts as a central selling agency, and through the pool principle assures producers a stable price for their product.

The telegram closes with the following statement:

If the federal government policy on feed grains to be announced later this month does not meet western farmers' wishes, Mr. Lang and Mr. Whelan should be called before the biggest crowd of farm people ever assembled in the history of the province to explain their actions, the Board stated.

Mr. Speaker, those are fairly strong terms from a very large group of western grain producers. I hope the minister in charge of the Wheat Board will take note of their feelings.

### *Feed Grains*

I wish now to comment on some of the remarks made by the member of the New Democratic Party. It is strange, but if the removal of feed grains from the control of the Wheat Board does take place, one thing is certain: the N.D.P. will vote with the government because they know my party will vote against it. One of the members of that party referred to the return of farm to farm or farm to feed lot sales under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board. Since a Conservative government allowed grain to be sold to feed lots we have seen a multi-million dollar business arise in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

I can remember the time when all calves were shipped to Ontario. I do not blame Ontario members of the NDP for wanting farm to farm sales to remain under the control of the Wheat Board so they can get all the business back into the province of Ontario. Hundreds of jobs were created by the rise of feed lots in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The meat processing plants which are now coming into being in western Canada are a tremendous thing and might never have come about if sales of grain had not been allowed directly to feed lots.

I could never understand, and I still cannot understand, why if I take a load of barley to the elevator today and try to buy it back tomorrow, it has almost doubled in price. It is completely ridiculous, in my opinion. I discussed this matter with the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. The NDP says that to move grain around a province is okay, but if you move it from province to province, well, that's a different country. It is ridiculous is no reason you should not move grain through the growing areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and it is has nothing to do with the control or regulations of the Wheat Board whatsoever. We agree that the Wheat Board should retain control, and cannot understand why, if we want to improve something, somebody has immediately to jump up and down and accuse us of trying to destroy it.

I think there could be a little more producer representation on the Wheat Board. I do not think this proposal should alarm anyone. Surely if a producer is selected by other producers to represent them, the Wheat Board should have nothing to fear. I rode in an airplane last Friday with the manager of agro-rapeseed processors of Nipiwán. I was astounded at some of the stories he related to me of ships from England having to turn around at Montreal and return empty, and producers having to buy rapeseed oil on the European market to meet commitments because of Wheat Board regulations which did not even allow them to sit down with the board and come to some sort of reasonable agreement as to quotas which would allow them to process rapeseed oil. He told me a story of how one level of government or another is always saying we are going to get processing industries into the Prairies and then, on the other, refuses to allow them to operate. Those things can be worked out, surely, by the Wheat Board. It is my suggestion that they get down to see these things are worked out so as to create more jobs the Prairies. Surely no one should accuse me of trying to destroy the Wheat Board because I am in favour of these things. People should have more sense than that.

The policy which is needed is not so difficult to understand. There is a producer, a feeder and a consumer. What does the producer want? He wants a fair return—the cost