

*Canadian Wheat Board Act*

an opportunity to express our thoughts. These bills will be before the House again.

The bill before us deals essentially with a whole series of matters. First of all, there is a series of housekeeping provisions on which I do not intend to comment. For example, the bill provides for the extension of the crop year. I think most of my constituents are pretty well unanimous on this provision. The bill also makes some alterations in terminology. It refers to Thunder Bay rather than to Port Arthur and Fort William. When I say housekeeping provisions I do not mean it in the negative sense, but a large part of the bill deals with housekeeping matters.

The main point about which I and many other members of the House are concerned relates to the provision which permits marketing of flax, rye and rapeseed under the Canadian Wheat Board. What we have essentially is enabling legislation. If the minister or the cabinet see fit to include these commodities under the Wheat Board at some time, they will do so. I should like to ask the minister when he rises to speak again why he does not move now to include these commodities under the Wheat Board. Why is he again at this time in the position of going half way and not all the way? Why is he just half pregnant? This is often all too typical of this government. They go a little way down the path but not all the way. This is another small example of their over-cautiousness and of the timidity of the minister.

My position on the matter is quite clear. I am in favour of the immediate inclusion of flax, rye and rapeseed under the Canadian Wheat Board. I know other members of my party suggested this on Monday when they spoke in the House. I am in favour of the orderly marketing of all grains by the Canadian Wheat Board, an agency that is responsible to the public and to the producers. This is what we must have if there is to be any type of income stability for the farmer. In this way, farm commodities will not be the subject of speculation on the market, as is the case at present. This is why I should like to see the minister move as rapidly as possible to include these three commodities under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Why do I say this? First of all, to be very brief, the major farm organizations and farmers unions, the wheat pools in the three provinces, and the Federation of Agriculture have all agreed that these commodities should be included under the Canadian Wheat Board. Since 1935, our party has passed resolutions at several conventions recommending the inclusion of these grains under the Wheat Board. I know that my constituents and the farmers in my area are in favour of such a move. I believe that this is the type of action which we should take, and we should not be pussyfooting around delaying it.

I am all the more convinced that we should take this action when I look at who is against the inclusion of these commodities under the Wheat Board. I see that, for example, the private grain trade is against such action, and so is the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. The other day one of the members in the House quoted a letter from James Richardson and Sons, a newsletter which was sent

out on April 22. I do not have the letter here but I know that James Richardson and Sons are against the inclusion of these commodities under the Wheat Board. When I learn this, I am all the more convinced that we must do so immediately because companies, organizations and corporations such as this have been living off the farmers and exploiting them for all too many years. It is about time we did something about such exploitation. As I said, such organizations have been living off the farmers, but this is not their fault; it is only natural. They are private corporations, and their aim is to make the maximum amount of profit with the lowest amount of effort. Their aim is to have a handsome profit from the sale of grain and other commodities which the farmer raises or produces. This is why the government should take the lead now and should initiate action at this time to include these three products under the Wheat Board.

It is not only the Liberal government that is half pregnant. We also find that the Conservative party is in a similar position. On the other hand, some Conservative Members of Parliament are against the inclusion of these commodities under the Wheat Board. I think that this type of attitude is nothing but an extreme right wing attitude which harkens back to the age of the dinosaur. It assumes that the farmer can go out on the open market and fight for himself. The other day the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) said that the government is committed to a policy of economic genocide against the small scale farmer. I think he is right. I think the government in forcing small scale farmers off the land. This is their announced intention.

If some Conservative members vote against a piece of legislation such as this, then it can be assumed that there is certainly Conservative complicity in working against the operators of small farms. They want us to move even faster to force these farmers off the land. The hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) and the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer), the two former cabinet ministers, left the cabinet because they thought the government was too cautious and too conservative. Now, we have some Conservative members saying that the government is not conservative enough. I think this speaks for itself. This is not the direction in which we must move. We must move in the other direction so that the farmer will have some protection and some bargaining power when he goes out into world markets. He must not be left to cope with the vagaries of the speculative market, but must be given some kind of stability. I think the minister knows this.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The minister is from Saskatchewan. I know he has been in contact with farm organizations. I hope he will act upon their recommendations as soon as possible because it is his duty to lead the way and to bring these commodities under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board. He should listen to these organizations, and listen to them before the end of this crop year. If he does not, then perhaps there is some validity to the suggestion of some hon. members that a plebiscite be held. But that plebiscite would be a foregone conclusion because farmers are in favour of this legislation.

[Mr. Nystrom.]