

*Government Orders*

At least the Conservatives can take credit for this bill hitting every region of Canada equally. It is devastating to the corn and soybean producers in Ontario, to the market gardeners in Quebec, to the grain farmers on the prairies and certainly to farmers in British Columbia, including farmers in Surrey North.

I am delighted to be able to tell people that although my riding is considered an urban riding, it has a big agricultural finger to it that includes a lot of what we consider market gardening. boards; the B.C. Coast Vegetable Growers Co-op, The Island Vegetable Growers Co-op and the Interior Vegetable Growers Co-op. All of these boards are saying the same type of thing, that this bill not only distracts from the financial viability of the farms, but it is hurting the marketing system.

In Ontario it is going to force farmers to deliver their corn or soybeans as early as possible in order to get cash flow. If deliveries can be spread out over different periods of time, particularly in the spring, there would not be shortages.

In the prairies the whole marketing system has become very complex. I grew up in many little prairie towns around Calgary. Most of those prairie towns do not now exist. We had 100 people at a family reunion on my grandfather's farm two summers ago and the last elevator was being boarded up at Duhamel. What the whole town has stood for since the turn of the century has basically gone. A lot of it has to do with the grain marketing system. It has been consolidated into larger centres. The number of storage facilities on farms has increased dramatically.

One of the things I should have mentioned is that the farmer, at least on the prairies, not only has to be an agriculturalist, a machinist and a business person, he has to be an elevator operator.

Marketing is very important. The marketing system can only accommodate 40 per cent of the crops. There has to be some mechanism where the storage and the delivery is evened out over a longer period of time. There has been an attempt to encourage the marketing

so that there is less and less grain put into large storage facilities, but it is brought to the elevators and marketed when the transportation systems can accommodate it. The whole marketing and movement of agricultural products has become a very complex system in Canada.

The farm and marketing organizations say that one of the spin-offs in this bill is that it is going to make it that much more difficult to maintain the orderly marketing of farm products, and not only for grains. The same thing is true in vegetables. People are going to be forced, in order to get cash, to deliver to markets at an inopportune time.

The funny thing about this bill which I have also mentioned, is that it follows the Conservative tradition of, "If it is broken, make it worse; if it is not broken, let's create a problem". But also it follows the Tory tradition that nearly all of the Tories are opposed to it.

At Conservative meetings farmer after farmer and person after person representing organizations stood up and clearly denounced this measure. Yet what seems to happen is that the style of government that is being developed in Canada is, if it is not a problem, let's make a problem; if the government's actions are opposed by the Canadian public, by the people affected, and by the bulk of the people within the Tory party, that only makes it that much more gung-ho to go ahead. I just do not understand it.

I and the New Democratic Party are opposed to this, and we are opposed to it for three or four fundamental reasons. One, it makes the family farm less viable. We want to protect a way of life in Canada that allows families to stay on their farms. That is what has built this country, and made it unique. We do not want to get into a situation where the only people who can manage farms are the big financial corporate farms. It hurts the family farms. It hurts the consumers because it interrupts the marketing, whether those consumers be from marketing boards for farm vegetables or are international consumers. In our grains, which is a major part of our export trade, we are disrupting the consumer pattern and it hurts the smooth marketing of farm products.