

*Wheat Export Prices*

charges due the wheat board are paid by the farmer and not by the government.

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member do a little more homework. I remind him that the treasury of Canada pays the interest on cash advances.

**Mr. Gundlock:** Further to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the minister was not talking about storage.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. That is not a point of order.

• (8:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Olson:** The point I am trying to make is that the cash advances on wheat stored on farms are certainly the best possible substitute for actually being able to deliver grain to the elevators.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member for Mackenzie is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Korchinski:** The Minister of Agriculture stated that the treasury of Canada picks up the interest rate. I think the minister himself should be aware that there is a reserve fund within the Wheat Board itself—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please.

**Mr. Korchinski:**—and a portion of this is transferred—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Boulanger:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The hon. member for Mercier on a point of order.

**Mr. Boulanger:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this. Although the debate in progress was initiated by the leader of the socialist party across the aisle, I should like the house to note that not a single member of that party is presently in the house.

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, so there is no confusion let me review in detail the exact procedure that a farmer must follow to obtain the benefits of the program. On August 1, or on any date thereafter during the crop year 1969-70, a farmer may go to his local elevator agent and apply for a cash advance on grain

[Mr. Gundlock.]

stored on the farm up to six bushels multiplied by the specified number of acres in his permit book. In line with the statement made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, any carryover from the 1968-69 crop year as far as cash advances are concerned will not be held against his entitlement unless the farmer is in default; and the only way he can be in default is if he has had an opportunity to deliver grain but has not done so.

Let it also be clear that the farmer must sign a declaration that he does have that amount of grain on which he receives advance payment stored on the farm. The total acreage appearing in the permit books is in the region of 84 million. Multiplied by six, the total is something over 500 million bushels. There must be subtracted from this total that number of acres over 1,000 that appears in each permit book. This reduces the figure to 472 million acres, and it is these 472 million acres on which acreage payments may be made.

**Mr. Woolliams:** You have said that twice.

**Mr. Olson:** I will say it a dozen times more until people both here and in western Canada understand it. This is the entitlement as of August 1. I am certain that something in the neighbourhood of \$250 million, perhaps \$300 million, will be paid out during the next 90 days under this program, unless, of course, there is a significant increase in the volume of grain that passes through the elevator system.

Again, I suggest that an analysis of the situation will lead most people to conclude that the restricted market is the problem here. I contend there is no more fair, feasible or just way of dealing with this transitional problem, as we hope it will be, than by providing farmers with cash whether or not they are able to deliver their grain, and this is exactly what is happening under the program I have outlined.

I should like to answer one or two further questions that were raised. The hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Gundlock) stated that a former minister of agriculture had told the farmers: "You grow the wheat and we'll sell it". The only minister I can recall saying that was the former member for Qu'Appelle, who at one time was Minister of Agriculture, and the house knows what happened to him. I should think that if a Minister of Agriculture told the farmers that they could indiscriminately grow large volumes of farm produce which he would undertake to sell, he would