

*Grain*

Canada. When one looks at these areas, one realizes that the matter certainly presents quite a challenge. Therefore, the motion put forward by my colleague is an important solution to some of the problems that we may face.

• (1710)

Let me refer to the LIFT years in farming and agriculture. Particularly in western Canada, although I am sure the situation relates to agriculture all across Canada, we find that the Otto Lang years of western grain farming when the LIFT program had to be brought in put farmers out of production. The repercussions from that were significant to the whole nation. I want to suggest to the House and to all Canadians that it is important to have stability in the agricultural economy of this country, and it is vital we take positive measures. The Progressive Conservative Party is trying to do that in this House today by presenting this motion for a stable floor price on wheat at \$7 a bushel. This price is within the region of possibility for farmers to meet the cost of production and stay in business.

From 1930 to the present date I do not believe you will find a time as critical as the one that we will face in the immediate future. The increased freight rates alone will challenge the farmer's ability to compete in the international marketplace. The cost of production, as I alluded to earlier, will be significant. Just one spectrum of that is the increased cost of fuel. Farmers pay in the neighbourhood of 62 cents to 70 cents on a gallon in federal tax. For example, if a farmer uses 10,000 gallons of gasoline or diesel fuel, and that farmer would be operating a medium-sized farm, the tax on that fuel amounts to approximately \$6,000. That amount of money would move a lot of grain. It is important that the Government, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) take a good, hard look at their farm policy as it relates to the domestic grain price and also as it relates to freight rates.

Let me suggest to the House and to the people of Canada that the farmers cannot afford the extravagant increases put forward by the Minister in Winnipeg in the last few days. We simply cannot stand it. There is absolutely no guarantee that farmers' interests would be protected in the policy put forward by the Minister in Winnipeg last week. However, the railroads have their hands in the farmers' pockets and in the Treasury of the country, and through subsidies amounting to \$600 million plus from the federal Government they are guaranteed a pretty rich program. In addition to that, hopper cars were made available by provincial Governments, by the Canadian Wheat Board and by the federal Government, a very rich program for the railroads.

This only brings attention to the significance of the whole problem we face and which we are addressing here today, namely, that of the floor price of grain.

I want to return to a subject I alluded to earlier. It is significant to the whole agricultural program and to the business of growing wheat particularly. I am speaking of the

international marketplace. If it has ever been important to have an international wheat agreement, it is today. We are facing the time when subsidies by governments around the world will cause farmers problems. I want to suggest to the Government and to the Ministers in charge, and I made mention of this to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in a question, that because of the lack of representation in the House there was not a clear understanding of the situation existing in the wheat growing areas of western Canada. The Prime Minister made the statement that we did not represent western Canada, that the Liberals represented western Canada. I think that statement could be challenged to some extent. However, I certainly challenge the Government to look at the facts and to look at the statement put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster that we should examine the floor price to see if it would not be fair to adopt the motion put forward. This would give farmers a base to work from and a guaranteed price of \$7 a bushel upon which they could depend and which would be reasonable.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. Pursuant to Standing Order 24(2), it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is there unanimous consent that all items preceding No. 467 be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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## CRIMINAL CODE CANADA EVIDENCE ACT

### AMENDMENT RESPECTING COMPUTER CRIME

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe)** moved that Bill C-667, to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act in respect of computer crime be read the second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Members of the House who had the opportunity to read the decision recently issued by the CRTC on the issue of content quotas in broadcasting will have noted the dissenting opinion given by Commissioners Grace and Gagnon. In that dissenting opinion, those two Commissioners pointed out that they felt the CRTC had not kept grips on modern technology in its attempt to apply the law.

That is just one instance where the law as it stands today has been bypassed by modern technology. There are many others. The whole of the communications field is an area where technology is moving very fast. Often statute law has not kept pace. Indeed, you would find, if you were to discuss the matter