

these agents are not primarily moved by patriotism or a feeling of sympathy for the Canadian wheat producer. They make deals for profit, not patriotism.

The Wheat Board is not empowered to approach governments, yet more than half our potential customers are represented by government purchasing agencies. We need a modernized board that can go anywhere, approach anyone and make deals without the endless business of consultation and waiting for government policy to be determined. We need more modernized and flexible regulations in order to meet the demands of potential customers. There is no future in Canada sitting on mounds of top grade wheat if customers want lower or mixed grades. There is no future in setting up bodies, such as the Grains Council, if we hear nothing from them from their inception. What has happened to the Grains Council? Industry needs action, not advice. We need one simple, dynamic body that can get things going. We have spent too long in consultation, study and advice. We now need swift, positive action.

I would not be surprised if the government announced shortly the formation of another task force to study the situation. Canadians have been task forced into a stupor. Let us have a "do it" force and get our wheat moving. Let us inject cash into the agricultural community so we may once again enjoy a balanced economy in western Canada. I do not wish to belabour the gravity of this development, because it must be apparent to everyone. I simply repeat what I said at the outset: we must sell our wheat to whoever we can, at the best price we can obtain, and make up from federal resources difference between that and the guaranteed minimum. This is in no sense a handout; it is simply sensible, economic assistance to a very important segment of our national economy.

The sluggish wheat market is already showing signs of affecting eastern industry and businessmen, taxpayers and consumers all across the country. It is only common sense that the federal government should step in and do something now. Despite what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) says, there is no way in which he can convince me that all is well on the prairies. The business community and the farm community are suffering. Repossessions and foreclosures are numerous. The minister today dealt with payments to the Farm Credit Corporation. I suggest to him that the arrears of the corporation are no greater than they have been at

any time in the past. The minister knows that payments to the Farm Credit Corporation have priority as far as the farmer is concerned. Accounts receivable by merchants, that is, fuel, fertilizer accounts and so on, are the ones not being paid.

This is a typical example of the many letters that I have received, written by a farmer from Lloydminster, Alberta. He writes:

As a farmer living in your voting area I thought you might be interested in the following bit of information.

I just hauled out my fifth bushel of quota today. I now have a cultivated acreage of 465 acres.  $465 \times 1.17 = \$543.05$ .

My municipal taxes (now due) amount to \$662.93 which leaves me a quota of approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bushels on which to live and operate my farm. How long are we going to last?

The *Edmonton Journal*, a proponent of Liberal philosophy, in an editorial dated Saturday, July 19, headed "Crisis in wheat demands action" states in part:

Many suggestions have been made for meeting this "truly desperate situation" which must be met quickly or the West as a whole, not only the farmers, will suffer. Perhaps the best and simplest short-term solution would be a form of acreage payments, with a reasonable maximum. And so-called "rich" farmers are entitled to participate as well as poorer ones.

With such a plan in operation, the government and its agencies, farmers' organizations and others, including individual farmers, should lose no time in putting Canadian agriculture on a much sounder, long-term basis than it is at present.

I could cite many more examples but I do not intend to take up any more time of the house. May I close by saying that action must be taken to meet immediate problems. After we solve some of our short term problems, we must modernize the agricultural industry and streamline our grain marketing machinery. Only by radical and swift action will we be able to salvage a once great industry that in the past has accounted to one in every eight of our export dollars and one in every ten of our tax dollars.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to take very long because I realize that many people here, particularly the staff, have had a long day.

I think it is a change for an opposition motion to deal with a real problem. The motion recites the difficulties arising from wheat prices in the world today. The maintenance of world prices and of the prices set under the International Grains Arrangement is of fundamental importance to the wheat