

There are a number of other things that should be done immediately. We should have storage facilities somewhere in Asia. Many countries there could use wheat. We could develop these markets by providing storage there to fill orders of 20,000 to 30,000 bushels at a time. This matter has been mentioned often and should have been looked after five or ten years ago. We should also begin immediately to develop as quickly as possible a number of varieties of feed wheat. Had we done this years ago I am sure we would now have markets and would be selling feed wheat. I realize that progress is slow; it took us five years to adopt protein grading.

We should improve facilities at Prince Rupert. The minister in charge of the Wheat Board made an announcement a long time ago that he was going to improve these facilities. He could not explain specifically what he was going to do then, and has not explained since. There is no reason in the world why we should not be using the port of Churchill to a greater extent. You will never convince people in western Canada that the reason for not using that port to a greater extent is something other than that related to political power in central Canada. These mistakes are academic ones for the ministers and civil servants to solve, but they make the difference between existing and making a living in western Canada.

Our storage policy is responsible for another problem in Canada. This problem has created a loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to western Canada in the last five years. The farmer has been expected to store his grain while the large companies were being paid for storage. The farmers stored it for nothing, and the federal government told them it was surplus, there was a glut on the market and they should get rid of it. They sold it for 40 cents to 50 cents a bushel in the area in which I live. The same wheat is selling today for \$3 a bushel in Vancouver. Wheat sold seven months ago will not bring the western farmer more than \$1.40 a bushel. I assume the minister in charge of the Wheat Board will have an opportunity to speak, although I know he is not at the top of the priority list. I should like to hear him emphasize once again, as he did during the campaign, that the Lift program was not a mistake.

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt (Mr. Lang) on his tremendous feat of getting elected in western Canada. One would have to say this was entirely a personal victory; Liberal policies could in no way have helped him get elected in the riding of Saskatoon-Humboldt. In 11 of the 13 constituencies in Saskatchewan, the Liberals came third. With the union we now have in the House, I am not sure they will not be running candidates opposing each other in those constituencies.

The Minister of Justice said the Lift program was bad medicine but it was necessary. Speaking on behalf of the western farmer, the result of the election was also bad medicine but perhaps equally necessary for the Liberals. From what I have heard, the people of Saskatoon-Humboldt felt they had to get this hon. member elected because he could fight from the inside. I wish him lots of luck in that regard.

The Liberals' discovery of the west is nothing less than an admission of failure to handle the problems of western

The Address—Mr. N. Horner

Canada in the past four and a half years. The minister in charge of the Wheat Board could perhaps learn something from the results of the election and be a little more honest, because he cannot fool the western farmer. There were headlines in the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* three inches high, to the effect that the minister had said the two-price system was permanent legislation. I did not see the bill, but it was neither permanent nor did it give any priority to wheat. This was a one-shot acreage payment. Had the minister been honest, the farmers would have thought better of him.

Wheat is now selling to flour mills at \$1.95 a bushel. If a feeder wanted to buy it, it would be \$3 per bushel. What we have is the wheat grower subsidizing other farmers. I am sure the minister in charge of the Wheat Board can explain this to the wheat producers. I hope he can also explain to the wheat growers what he means when he says the two-price system is a great breakthrough for the west. The \$1.95 should have been a minimum price.

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Whelan) on his appointment to the cabinet. I assure him I am looking forward to working on the agricultural committee. A long time has passed since the election and we have many problems to tackle. I urge the minister to make that committee active as soon as possible.

• (2030)

There does not seem to be any rush for legislation in the House. Let us have some agricultural legislation brought forward immediately. I am very anxious to see measures that would bring some sort of stability and confidence to the agricultural industry, and a move away from the Liberal band-aid approach. The new minister has been quoted very often with regard to national marketing boards. I say to him that the only marketing board legislation that is likely to get through the House is that which comes at the request of the producer, and then only that which leaves complete control in the hands of the farmer. So far as western agriculture is concerned, such control must be in the hands of the western farmer—and "control" is the key word here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): In this respect I want to mention briefly the Wheat Board. I think it would be an excellent idea if an active producer advisory board were set up to advise the Wheat Board. It is an odd thing that we hear voices in favour of the Wheat Board handling rapeseed, but not from rapeseed growers. The NDP are in favour of such a move. It is strange, since the producers and customers do not want the Wheat Board to handle rapeseed. When you are in business, it is the customer who counts. But, of course, business is something that the NDP do not understand.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): It is the belief of socialists that the farmer does not know anything and that the civil servant is the source of all wisdom. So it seems to me that a federal socialist Liberal government and a federal socialist New Democratic Party should get along