

Of course, the Conservatives have changed who they are after as voters. They do not really give a damn about farmers any more. They do not give a damn about northerners. Who are they really after? They are after the yuppie vote. That is who they are after.

Mr. McKnight: That's the NDP vote.

Mr. Fulton: The Minister of Defence, in promoting low-level flights in Labrador, is certainly not interested in the votes of Newfoundlanders. He certainly is not interested in the human rights of Inuit, but he thinks that the yuppie voters in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver might vote for him.

The Minister of Defence has not cut back on any of his expenditures and he has certainly never stood up in this House to stand up for the farmers on the prairies. We on this side certainly look forward to hearing him stand up and vote against a stupid bill like C-36 which is harming the very people that he claims to represent.

Mr. Funk: He is turning plough shares into jets.

Mr. Fulton: Selling all his products so soon after harvest will short the market for Quebec's 12 year round crops such as turnip, onion and cabbage. Supply will run out in March and consumers will have to buy imported U.S. produce and pay higher prices.

The Prairie Grain Advance Payment Act is older than the APCA, having started back in the 1957-58 crop year. It is administered by the Canadian Wheat Board. By giving producers of board grains their money up front and hence an incentive to deliver their grain in a more orderly fashion throughout the crop year as the board asks for deliveries of grades and kinds of grain in demand, the program helped to solve the storage problem and the handling system.

The amount advanced to farmers through the PGAPA has fluctuated over the years, but in the 1957-58 crop the government advanced \$35 million to producers. By 1980-81, this had risen to \$333 million and in the 1987-88 crop year to \$563 million in loans. Administration costs for the same crop year amounted to \$1 million according to the Wheat Board 1987-88 Annual Report.

Government Orders

The continuing closure of grain elevators has left the system with less than 40 per cent capacity. Hence, killing the program through the elimination of the interest free provision will worsen the congestion problem. As well, the July 1988 amendment to the Canadian Wheat Board Act, Bill C-92, which allows farmers to ship grain in producer cars to avoid paying some of the handling charges, will cause the further closure of marginal elevators.

I am sure companies like Cargill are clapping their hands and phoning the minister responsible for grains and the Minister of Agriculture saying "ready aye ready, this kind of approach is just lovely".

In the 1989-90 crop year, which began August 1, the government has decided not to lend any money until C-32 is passed, now Bill C-36, otherwise, under the current terms of the act, they would be obliged to again offer the interest free provision which, of course, leads to orderly marketing. That is something that the Conservative mind seems incapable of understanding any longer.

The Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board wrote to the minister responsible for grains on July 13, offering the minister the following unanimous resolution:

That the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board recommend to the federal government that for the 1989-90 crop year the cash advance program be operated as it was in the 1988-89 crop year.

In passing the motion the committee noted that it also wanted to give recognition to the fact that economic factors continue to create serious financial stress for many producers in western Canada.

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The National Farmers Union offered similar advice in mid-August when they wrote: "A cash advance program is urgently needed for the 1989-90 crop year, since farmers need cash flow now to pay their bills".

Prairie pools say the changes will hurt orderly marketing and undermine the Canadian Wheat Board because it will be more difficult to manage deliveries.

Manitoba's Keystone Agricultural Producers noted in their June newsletter that the elimination of the interest free provision under both acts would be "particularly onerous for grains and oilseeds producers in Manitoba who are virtually obliged to ship their commodities through the port at Thunder Bay. Because that port is closed during the winter months, many farmers in Manitoba sit all winter with little or no opportunity to market grain, resulting, in turn, in their having little income with which to pay their bills and support the economies of their local communities".