

Conservative Party is outrageous because of the job the Wheat Board is doing. Those of us who support orderly marketing will not support a motion that will bring this parliament to an end today because of the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board. That would be ridiculous.

An hon. Member: The Conservatives blew it again.

Mr. Knight: I cannot conceive why anyone who has attended the meetings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture would want to bring this parliament to an end without ensuring that farmers in western Canada receive a reduction in their premiums under the crop insurance program. The committee has been trying to get a bill back to the House and passed by it in order to reduce premiums for western farmers. That shows the irresponsibility of the Conservative Party toward western farmers. It is ridiculous and outrageous. I would not cross the border of my constituency if I voted for a motion to bring this parliament to an end on the basis of the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board. That is the most outrageous and ridiculous suggestion I have heard for a long time. I cannot follow the arguments presented today by the Conservative Party.

An hon. Member: We understand.

Mr. Knight: The Tories ought to understand. If they think that I, as a representative of the farmers in Assiniboia, will vote to defeat the government on a motion attacking the Canadian Wheat Board, I have news for them. If the Conservative Party sincerely wanted to deal with the problems facing western farmers they would have introduced a motion calling upon the government to put flax, rye and rapeseed under the Canadian Wheat Board in order to bring orderly marketing to these grains. They will not do that because of their friends in the private grain industry. They want to build up and defend the open market system.

Let there be no mistake about the motion moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). In his speech the hon. member for Crowfoot made the ridiculous comment that if this motion is passed, 30 cents a bushel will be paid to the farmers. The hon. member knows full well that if this motion passes, at 9.45 tonight this place will shut down: there is no way the farmer will get 30 cents a bushel. The hon. member for Crowfoot is playing games. How can the western farmer get such a payment if this place is shut down? The hon. member is crazy. Some members in the Conservative Party should talk to the farmers in their ridings. Maybe they should go to Weyburn. I would not go to Weyburn if I supported a motion attacking the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board, the only thing that ever worked for western farmers.

I am pleased to see a debate initiated on farming and agriculture. This is the place to air the matter. However, I could not believe my eyes when I read this motion on the order paper. I am a supporter of the Canadian Wheat Board. I am always amazed when I hear the minister in charge of the Wheat Board announcing what he did and the member for St. Boniface saying what he did, and nobody placing the credit where credit is due. The credit rests with the Canadian Wheat Board which carries on the orderly marketing of grain, and it has nothing to do with

Wheat Sales

the politicians of the Tory party, the Liberal Party or the NDP. I do not intend to support a motion which is a direct attack upon the Canadian Wheat Board.

● (1750)

There are a number of things of which the minister ought to be aware. There is no need for us to bring up the question of the Lift program again.

An hon. Member: Oh, go ahead.

Mr. Knight: There is no need to point out again how stupid that was. Here we sit at this time of year when we could be exporting another 200 million bushels of grain. They are not there—

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Because the minister interfered with the Wheat Board.

Mr. Knight: This is where the minister's policy has been away off base. Think of what the sale of 200 million bushels of wheat would have meant to the western farmer, even at \$2 a bushel. That is not the fault of the Canadian Wheat Board; it is the minister's fault.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Exactly. That is what the motion is all about.

Mr. Knight: That's right. I agree on that one point. But the motion reads as a direct attack on the Wheat Board. Perhaps the hon. member for Crowfoot ought to read it again.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): You have said that seven times already.

Mr. Knight: I have to repeat it.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Does repetition make it the truth?

Mr. Knight: In my opinion the minister interfered on a number of occasions by making policy decisions which were detrimental to the west. Lift is a prime example. The hon. member for Crowfoot mentioned the grain income stabilization program. This policy was rejected by western farmers. A by-election was fought in Assiniboia on the question. When it came to the crunch in terms of opposition to that bill, where was the Tory party? Their leader stood up in the House of Commons and said he would allow the bill to go through. I know what was said because I read the record. I read it to the voters of Assiniboia, That is why I am here.

Now we get this crazy motion from the Tories. In those two areas the government was away off base. I will now pass on some information that some of the new members may not have heard. The Liberals sent out a slip to farmers before the Assiniboia by-election saying farmers would receive an acreage payment of so many dollars. This is the kind of nonsense you get from Liberal politicians. That slip went out to every western producer with a permit book. The Wheat Board only found out the minister was doing it when a farmer mailed in a copy of the letter asking what it was all about. That kind of nonsense by a Liberal minister, or a Tory minister—