

The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville has illustrated our position on this matter extremely well. I want to remind the hon. member for Lisgar that the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville is a third generation farmer. He was born and raised on a farm. I do not want to hear any inferences or innuendoes that somehow or other he does not have a farming background or does not know anything about farming. He can speak with authority on the matter because he has that background on both sides of his family, and has had it for three generations. He has also been in sufficient touch with grain producers in his own riding—as I would like to think I have—to reflect the views of those people. As he said, the views we are reflecting are not those of 10, 20, or 30 section farmers. I am not particularly interested in them. As far as I am concerned they are just greedy. However, the fellow who farms a section or two sections—that is the size of farm that the majority of farmers in western Canada have—has to have the protection of the Canadian Wheat Board and orderly marketing.

● (1200)

To suggest that a farmer on his own as a so-called independent free enterpriser on the open free market can compete with multi-million dollar corporations is just sheer nonsense. Grain producers learned that bitter lesson repeatedly over a period of about 40 years, and they said "no more". I wish that the government and the official opposition would stop clinging to these 19th century mythologies about free enterprise and the free and open market in such an essential commodity as grain. It does not work for grain producers. It might work fine for Cargill, Bunge or Continental, but it does not work for grain producers. It never has. It is not there to work for grain producers. That system is there to make profits for others but not for farmers.

The Canadian Wheat Board is there to maximize returns for farmers, not for the Canadian Wheat Board or for the Canadian government.

That is the essential difference between the two systems, and I submit that orderly marketing is the only sane or sensible way in which to operate. It is not some kind of a socialist dogma. The majority of grain producers of all political beliefs fully support orderly marketing and the Canadian Wheat Board.

I think this kind of legislation keeps the door open for the so-called free marketers. It allows them to keep their foot in the door, to survive and to make a few dollars. On the world scene those few dollars will not matter very much, considering the amounts these companies make in other countries, particularly in the United States. Those multi-national grain corporations have not only made profits off the backs of grain producers; they have also victimized the consumer in many instances.

When one reads the court records and learns of the investigations which have been carried on with regard to these multi-national grain corporations over many decades, he finds that the consumer has been victimized. These companies were around in the 1880's and 1890's. Grain producers in western

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Canada got rid of most of them during the thirties, forties and fifties, but now they are sneaking in the back door, with the encouragement and support of the old-line parties which still think there is some validity to their 19th century beliefs about the free and open market.

I hope that there will be a relenting and a change of heart, at least on the part of the official opposition, but I am not optimistic. I am sure hon. members to my right will allow this bill to be read the third time, and in a way that is very sad.

I regret accusing the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain of supporting the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board because that is a terrible thing to say, and I did not really mean it. That is the worst thing anybody from anywhere between Thunder Bay and the Rocky Mountains could say, so I will take that back, but I feel very sad that the hon. member and his colleagues would be party to the strengthening of the so-called free open market system and to providing government guarantees for a system which is supposed to be free and open and operating without government intervention. I find that inconsistent and hypocritical. It is a sad thing that they would still cling to those ideas. Perhaps as the years go by they will gradually realize that there are some areas of human endeavour in which the so-called private free enterprise system has no place and does not work in the interest of the people. Surely this grain business is one in which the so-called free and open market system has no place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): In my opinion the yeas have it.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.