

cient. I cannot understand why they suggest that this is not an efficient operation.

The next question involves pricing. If I had the gift of second sight, I would be a rich man. I noticed an article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* about the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta). He has a nice operation. The article stated the hon. member sold next year's rapeseed or flax crop at \$5 a bushel. I have news for him. It is worth much more than that on today's market. No one should try to second guess the future's market. A lot of money has been lost doing that.

An hon. Member: It is safer to play poker.

Mr. Gleave: Absolutely. I do not see how we can justifiably launch an attack on the Wheat Board for making a decision on pricing.

● (1630)

Mr. Korchinski: Nobody is!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gleave: The Wheat Board is criticized in the motion for failing to maximize wheat sales at top world prices. I regard this as a deliberate attempt to undermine the confidence of the farmer in the Wheat Board system of marketing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gleave: And I think that any individual or party which sets out to do this does a considerable disservice to the farmers of western Canada.

I saw one of the questions in the proceedings to which reference was made earlier. Mr. Vogel, the Chairman of the Board, answered a question with regard to the pricing of barley to the satisfaction of the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski).

Mr. Korchinski: Page 22.

Mr. Gleave: Then, he pointed out that the United States had been selling barley at a lower price, that the Wheat Board held off for a week in expectation of an increase in price and received it. To make a charge that better judgment could have been used is, in my opinion, an unfair attack.

Mr. Korchinski: Nobody said that.

Mr. Gleave: It is a mistake, in my view, to suggest we should pay less attention to market in the Pacific rim countries than we have done.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Who said that?

Mr. Gleave: It is a very important market for us.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): I agree.

Mr. Gleave: I hear them chattering away down there.

Mr. Korchinski: You have had a bad day.

Mr. Gleave: I have not had a bad day.

Wheat Sales

Mr. Korchinski: You have now.

Mr. Gleave: The problem with people over there is this: They really do not want to say they do not want a system of Wheat Board marketing. But they want to needle away. If they really wanted Wheat Board marketing, they would call for rapeseed and flax to be marketed by the Board. If this had been done, farmers out in the country would not have sold rapeseed for two dollars and half a bushel, only to find it selling later at five dollars a bushel. That is the kind of shellacking some of these farmers have taken. I do not understand why members who come from the same province as myself, and others from the Province of Alberta, are not demanding a fair shake for the men who are growing and selling rapeseed and flax.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. member indicate to whom he was referring when he spoke of "these people"?

An hon. Member: "People" may have been the wrong word.

Mr. Gleave: If the cap fits, wear it. If you want to make a speech later on, you can do something about it.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I will.

Mr. Gleave: I would be more pleased if the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) would get his party to agree to both flax and rapeseed being marketed by the Wheat Board, because his hon. friends chickened out when faced with this proposal.

We should not be saying to the minister: Don't do this, and don't do that. We should be saying: Get off your backside and do a decent job on behalf of the western farmer. This, he has not fully done. He should not be criticized for the way in which the Board is handling the grains it is charged with selling. He should be criticized for failing to do a complete job on behalf of western farmers engaged in the marketing of all grains.

I have no confidence that the Official Opposition would do any better than the minister is doing. In fact, they would do worse. Every once in a while they say: We are the people who set up the Wheat Board. Like fun! They scratched some words on a piece of paper. But the actual, effective operation of the Board did not come about until the time of the second world war, at the same time as the government wanted to control the price of wheat—and it fitted in very nicely with the prices control board at that time.

Mr. Douglas: And prices went up.

Mr. Gleave: You were around, too! So, let's not kid anybody. After the war it was the Conservatives who took the control of feed grain out of the hands of the Wheat Board in western Canada and turned it over to the dealers so that farmers have been selling barley as the minister said, at three bushels for a dollar. And that same minister is going to take action by order in council to introduce the same sort of a system in eastern Canada unless I miss my guess. I wonder when the minister is going to say what that Eastern feed policy will be. And I wonder how much income the western farmer will lose when that feed policy