

But even if it were implemented right away it would not have any effect on farm incomes for at least many months. So I repeat my earlier suggestion that the government should make a cash payment now in lieu of the two price system. I am not too concerned whether it is made on a per bushel basis or on an acreage basis, so long as it would put at least \$60 million into the hands of the farmers.

• (8:50 p.m.)

I assure the government that any such funds paid to the farmers at this time would circulate so fast through paying debts and meeting operating expenses it would make your head spin. I must return to what I think is the main requirement. I will not mention many of the other things I think might be beneficial, such as reduced tariffs and trade barriers about which the government is doing something and making progress.

However, I think we must sell wheat. That is the main requirement. Let the government support the price of wheat at \$1.95½ and turn the wheat board loose to really compete for wheat sales. It could do a good job on that basis. Let us get rid of our burdensome wheat surplus. This would cut down on storage costs and put the farmers back on their feet. It would help keep our promise to export 1.3 billion bushels during this year and the next two years. Such a program would require average sales of 500 million bushels in the next two years. By accomplishing this we will insure that the only truly national party we have, the Liberal party, will continue to be a party for all Canadians. This is a necessary ingredient to national unity. The action I have outlined will keep faith with the people of western Canada who, like people in all other parts of Canada, confidently expect a fair deal from this government.

The dimensions of this problem are now becoming unmistakably apparent as wheat sales continue to lag. I know the government is giving much consideration to this situation, but I urge them to come up with some meaningful announcement soon. I am confident that they will do so.

I cannot support the motion which states that the government has failed to take steps to relieve the critical cash position of farmers in western Canada. The motion is obviously in error because the government has taken some very positive steps, such as those I have already outlined. The steps which have been taken may not be sufficient, but I trust that the government has under consideration some further measures, and I look forward to some announcement in the very near future.

Alleged Failure to Aid Western Farmers

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I am speaking in support of this motion this evening because of the situation in which the farmers in my constituency find themselves. They are sitting on farms in many cases with three or four bushel quotas—some have two and some have as low as a one bushel quota. I wonder whether the members in this house have an understanding of what this means to those farmers who live on the prairies.

I have a neighbour who farms a section of land. He is a good farmer. He probably has received a gross income from wheat since August 1 of last year—six weeks off the full year—of probably \$2,500. He has to support a family and run a farm on that income. I have another neighbour who farms a thousand acres from which he probably grosses \$3,500. He also has to support a family and pay the necessary cost of farming. This is the situation about which I am concerned.

If the government really wants to correct the situation which exists on the prairies it will have to start at the beginning where it made its first mistake. It will have to start from the negotiations for the International Grains Arrangement in 1966-67. The evidence before us which was gathered by the Standing Committee on Agriculture would indicate that we negotiated a minimum of \$1.95½ for Manitoba No. 1, and a price for Australian fair average quality of \$1.68. The price negotiated for Australian fair average quality, was 27½ cents lower than Manitoba No. 1. That was the differential. We were informed that this has since been narrowed some 5 cents a bushel. We were also told at about the same time that Australians improved the quality of their wheat. Did we not know that they were improving the quality of that wheat? Were we so ill informed of circumstances as Canadians—one of the great wheat growing areas of the world—that we were caught napping to that extent?

Does anyone imagine that we could sell to the markets of the world in competition with other countries by offering wheat for about 22½ cents a bushel more than a competitor who was offering wheat of a comparable quality? This house has not been told by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) what is to be done to correct this situation in respect of the negotiated differential of 12½ cents per bushel for Dark Northern Spring, United States wheat. Will someone tell me why the 49th parallel has anything to do with hard red spring wheat being worth 12½