

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I want to ask Mr. Woods two questions on economic principles. First, do you believe—you are speaking now, as I understand it, as President of the Canadian Council of Agriculture—that the producer should have the fixing of the price?

Mr. WOODS: No.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Secondly—

Mr. WOODS: Just wait a minute. I want to correct my last statement. I do not think he should, but if every other fellow has got the fixing of the price, I do not see why he should not. I think the whole question of price fixing is wrong.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I do not want to argue that.

Mr. WOODS: Neither do I.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: All I want is an answer to my question as an economic principle. I understand your answer to be "No" to the direct question.

Mr. WOODS: You are talking about fundamental principles now?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Yes.

Mr. WOODS: I think "No" is a satisfactory answer.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Do you think it is a sound economic principle to compel any man to sell his products through any given agency, governmental or otherwise? To put it more briefly, is the compulsory feature of the Wheat Board in your opinion compatible with sound, democratic, economic doctrine?

Mr. WOODS: I think it is absolutely compatible with present conditions, because it is exactly what we have. We have only one grain system; how are you going to sell through any other?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: In other words, it is sound as an emergency?

Mr. WOODS: It is sound under present conditions, because that is what we have. We have a commercial system through which we have to buy all our supplies, and we cannot buy through any other system. And we cannot buy through any other system. We are compelled to buy through them, how can we? I want something that the manufacturer is manufacturing in eastern Canada. How am I going to get it? I have got to get it through the system and I cannot get it any other way. The only way I can get it from his factory is to go and undertake to steal it. I don't want to do that.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Men growing oats last year suffered even more than men growing wheat. Is that right?

Mr. WOODS: I think it is.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Do you desire a board to control that?

Mr. WOODS: No, we don't.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: It is near one o'clock and I want to go back and clear up another matter we had a moment ago. At the time the price was fixed for wheat, at the time the price was \$2.15 for wheat, the initial price in Manitoba and Saskatchewan; what was the prevailing price across the line in the United States during that period, as it worked out from month to month? The price went up a bit. You said there were some quantities went over there. How much more do they get delivered in the States.

Mr. WOODS: I would give you these figures from memory.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Just approximately.

Mr. WOODS: Don't get that mixed up with the price of wheat. That is the initial thing. The price of wheat to the millers of \$2.30 a bushel.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: And the price of the foreign trade was from \$2.30 up.

[Mr. H. W. Woods.]