

*Supply—Agriculture*

However, as a result of the co-operation of the provincial government of Ontario, the federal government, the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company and the growers of Ontario, special arrangements were made to carry the industry through the crop year of 1961. This has been done in the hope that it will be possible, during the course of another year, to create in Canada a national sugar policy which would place the sugar beet industry of this country on a sound financial basis.

The beet growers themselves estimate that a quarter of a cent per pound on sugar in Canada could be used as a stabilization fund which would establish the industry in a sound financial position and permit the producers and the sugar refining companies to lay their plans for the future with confidence. In these days when we are trying to retain our employment in Canada and are trying to build up our Canadian industry I submit that it is important that the matter of a national sugar policy should be given close and careful consideration.

I hope and trust that the matter of establishing a sugar policy will be pursued with energy and vigour, and that it will not be lost track of during this coming year. We should get at the matter without delay, and should continue our efforts until we have arrived at some satisfactory formula for the proper establishment of our sugar beet industry on a sound financial basis. I make this recommendation for the consideration of the Minister of Agriculture.

Another matter I wish to mention has to do with storage for Ontario wheat. As members of the committee well know, the wheat producers of Ontario have established a wheat producers marketing board in this province. They try to finance their own operations as much as possible. They have the authority to levy a charge of nine cents per bushel on all wheat handled in Ontario. This nine cents per bushel is used for the purpose of a stabilization fund to take Ontario wheat off the local market and put it into the export trade. During their three years of operation the Ontario wheat producers marketing board have been seriously restricted by lack of storage space. Ontario fall wheat, which is a soft wheat, owing to the warm weather of the harvest season is subject to bin damage through overheating. It is necessary for the wheat to be taken from the field to proper drying establishments or to be stored where adequate drying facilities are available so the excess moisture can be taken out of the wheat and it can be properly dried for storage.

No such space exists at the present time. For several months the Ontario wheat producers marketing board have been negotiating with the national harbours board, through

the Department of Transport, for the use of space in the Port Colborne elevator for the purpose of storing and drying Ontario wheat. I would urge upon the Minister of Agriculture the desirability of using his good offices to assist the Ontario wheat producers marketing board in reaching a satisfactory arrangement with the national harbours board and the Department of Transport with regard to this necessary storage space.

Another point I should like to raise is in connection with the farm loan corporation. I suggest that careful consideration be given to extending the provisions of the legislation so that loans may be made by the farm credit corporation to small or part time farmers. This is a way of life which is becoming more prominent in our Canadian economy. People live on small farms where they are not fully occupied; they take jobs in industry while they continue to live on the farm and enjoy the advantages of rural life. Such loans, if extended to this type of farmer, might require different regulations from those governing loans now being offered by the farm loan corporation. In the interests of our Canadian economy I believe it is advisable to give careful consideration to the extension of loans to small and part-time farmers.

Then again, when the new farm loan act came into effect the deposit which applicants were obliged to make in connection with an application for a farm loan was increased from \$10, the amount which formerly applied, to 2 per cent of the value of the loan or \$50. Since the value of land and the size of loans have greatly increased, there are few applications which do not call for the full \$50 deposit.

This provision acts as a serious brake on the consideration of applications for farm loans. I would recommend that consideration be given to reducing this \$50 deposit, which now applies, to the former amount of \$10. I submit that the deposit of \$10 is enough to prevent nuisance applications having to be considered by farm loan corporation field men, and that the increase to \$50 was enough to discourage many people from applying for loans from which they might profit and from which the economy as a whole might reap benefit.

I think that is about all I have to say, Mr. Chairman, with the exception of one point. From time to time representations have been made to the effect that farm labour should be brought under the Unemployment Insurance Act. I suggest to the minister that, in the interests of agriculture, he should use his influence to have this matter given proper consideration. There may be difficulties in the way of bringing farm labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, but certainly at