

Supply

Mr. Mayer: The hon. member talks about the crop insurance based drought program. That is exactly what we did. If you look at the drought program, what farmers wanted us to do was to have a targeted program. We topped up crop insurance both on the yield and on the price side.

If he is suggesting, which I do not think he is, that we should have only provided assistance to producers that had crop insurance, then that would have been a terrible injustice. It would have meant that producers who did not have crop insurance would not have received any drought payment. We should know that the drought program was and is based on crop insurance data.

Second, he talks about farm-fed grain. He should go back and look at the previous House when the Standing Committee on Agriculture was chaired by the hon. member for Brandon—Souris and the standing committee undertook a review of western grain stabilization. I was the first person the committee called. I asked the committee to look at a way of including farm-fed grain in western grain stabilization.

The committee came back and said on a practical matter that it did not know how it could do it. If there is a way of doing it that makes sense which is administratively feasible, we are prepared to look at it. The member should go back and look at the report of the committee to see what was said. Some of his own members sat on that committee. They came back with a recommendation which said that while it is a good idea, they did not know how they could do it.

With regard to canola, this is a very involved situation. Before we jump holus-bolus into a marketing board—and I said that I do not have any particular philosophical hang-ups one way or another, and there are some arguments that I can make in favour of a marketing board for canola and there are some concerns about it—the member had better ask the major customers. About 90 per cent of the raw seed that we export goes to the Japanese. Ask your major customers what they think.

We know what happened in 1973 when the U.S. embargoed the sale of soybeans to the Japanese. Brazil

now produces about 18 million to 20 million tonnes of soybeans, whereas 15 years ago it produced hardly any.

It is find to stand up here and say, on a philosophical basis: “Give everything to a marketing board”. The member better understand—and we are not saying that we have to be totally beholden to our customer—that it is a very involved issue. There are more things to it than just simply as I said jumping up in your seat and saying, on a philosophical basis: “Give everything to a board”. There are some good points and there are some other things that have to be addressed before we want to jump into that kind of a situation.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Before my learned colleague begins his speech, there have been discussions among the parties and I think you would find, Mr. Speaker, disposition for a House order that when Your Honour calls a member of a party for debate during the 20 minutes that is normally allotted for that speaker, it would be possible for the party at its option to divide the 20 minutes into two periods of 10 minutes. Each ten-minute period would be followed by a five-minute question and comment period.

I can say for the record that for our party for the remainder of the day it is our intention to follow that practice with each of our speakers. So that when Your Honour chooses to recognize a Liberal speaker there would be then two speakers in succession, each with ten minutes and five minutes for questions and comments.

I believe the same will apply for the government party, except on the occasion when a minister may wish to address the House. I understand that the New Democratic Party wishes to follow the usual 20-minute regimen. I wonder if there would be an understanding that we proceed for the rest of the day on that basis.

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, the government would agree to that proposal.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to support the notion of each political party making a decision at the time of their speaker. At the moment our preference would be to continue as the practice would have it, but with the option of changing it if we wished.