

No wonder we are fearful and uneasy about what is to happen to orderly marketing and to the Wheat Board, as long as those two aspects of agriculture are at the tender mercies of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang).

I should like to refer to the telegram that the Minister of Justice sent to the four western premiers. Oh, he said some nice things about the government of Canada not accepting policies which will be destructive of orderly marketing. Our problem is knowing what his version of orderly marketing is as compared with that adopted by other organizations, because there seems to be quite a difference in interpretation. In his telegram he said:

Any national policy on feed grains must preserve effective authority and control by the Canadian Wheat Board over exports of feed grains and the over-all supervision by it of the interprovincial movement of feed grains.

The minister was waffling in that paragraph. He wants the Wheat Board to have the effective authority and control over exports of feed grains, but only supervision over the interprovincial movement of feed grains. That means that the Wheat Board will make sure that the grain is delivered, that there are boxcars and ships to take the grain, but that the dealers and speculators will continue to have a hey-day at the expense of the producers of feed grains, and at the expense of higher costs to people who need to buy those feed grains. People have sent telegrams and letters to all of us over the past weeks; they must be concerned, uneasy and fearful. I do not think they got that way by working their fear up in the middle of the night. They must have cause to be concerned. Judging from the telegrams and letters farmers have sent to me—and I am sure this has happened to members of the House of all parties—our people have reason to be fearful.

The minister talked about the free movement of grain in the west, and so help me if the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) did not also talk about the free movement of grain in the west. They say that in one breath, and in the next talk about orderly marketing. Orderly for whom? What do they mean by orderly marketing?

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): What do you mean?

Mr. Benjamin: I am glad the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley asked that and I will be happy to tell him what the NDP means. We mean that all feed grains should be completely under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board, or, to use the minister's own words, that the effective authority and control with regard to feed grains should be vested in the Wheat Board. Let us call it the Canadian grain board. We would not stop there. Flax, rye and rapeseed would also come under the authority and control of the Canadian Wheat Board.

I do not see why the Canadian Wheat Board, which could be called the Canadian grains board, should not have effective authority and control from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the setting of price. To be fair, feed mills, and feed lots of a significant size, say those with over 200 head of cattle in the western provinces, should be licensed agents of the Canadian Wheat Board, in the same way as elevators are agents. Farmers on the Prairies would be paid the same price as they are paid at the country eleva-

Feed Grains

tors. Feed grains would be sold at the same price on the prairies and at Quebec, and even in the Maritimes, subject only to differences in cost arising out of transportation and handling. It would be quite appropriate to include in such policy a program of feed freight assistance to the Maritimes. That may sound like an oversimplification. We do not see why the Wheat Board cannot be given those powers, and why its authority cannot be increased.

A number of members of this house attended at the National Farmers Union regional convention in Regina on Friday and Saturday. I wish the minister could have been there; he would have found it much more edifying than his sojourn in Vancouver.

An hon. Member: And more delegates, too.

Mr. Benjamin: Yes, and more delegates, who are indigent—indigenous to the area. Some of them are indigent, too. At least, they were indigenous to Saskatchewan, which was not the case in British Columbia. At that convention some members of parliament were asked to state their position.

The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Hamilton) stated his, and I give him full marks for being consistent. He said he was all for orderly marketing and, like the rest of his Tory and Liberal counterparts, did not approve of the Canadian Wheat Board having any jurisdiction over feed grains in the Wheat Board territory. Mr. Speaker, that is where we part company from both the Conservatives and Liberals. We say the Canadian Wheat Board should have sole jurisdiction over feed grains in western Canada and eastern Canada. If people want to use the Feed Grain Board in eastern Canada to work with the Canadian Wheat Board in purchasing supplies or negotiating price, fair enough. Personally, I would prefer the Canadian Wheat Board to have jurisdiction right across the country. However, when the Minister of Justice and the hon. member for Lisgar start using phrases like "free movement", I get frightened about the future aspects of orderly marketing. I worry about the health, welfare and good order of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Liberals and Conservatives from the Prairies regularly talk about being in favour of orderly marketing; but, when you nail them down, they also talk about free movement. I wonder if that is not the kind of movement that is brought on by a good dose of Epsom salts.

If the minister really wants to do something about feed grains and make them available in sufficient quantities and at a fair price to the feeders of eastern and western Canada, he should put them under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board. If the minister wants to assist in terms of freight and handling cost for purchases ranging from the maritimes to British Columbia and back to Quebec, that is up to the government. Put them all under the Canadian Wheat Board. Let's quit this lip service that is paid by the old line parties to a principle for which farmers have fought for over 70 years, to an organization that is continually placed in jeopardy by those who would like to get rid of it. Let's get rid of the "drag yourself up by your bootstraps", philosophy and mentality of the Winnipeg grain exchange. There should be no question about it: orderly marketing means feed grain under the Canadian Wheat Board for both western and eastern Canada. It is