

*Wheat Export Prices*

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Gundlock:** On a point of order or personal privilege, I do not know which is correct. Your Honour can correct me. The hon. member is putting words in the mouth of someone.

**An hon. Member:** What about making up your mind if it is order or privilege?

**Mr. Gundlock:** I asked the Speaker about that. It is up to Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps we might allow the hon. member to make his point. I would appreciate the co-operation of hon. members. I realize it is getting late but it will not help the situation if hon. members do not allow the hon. member to state his point, after which I will determine if there is a point of order.

**Mr. Gundlock:** I want to say to the hon. minister that I hope he is sincere. However, when he talks as he has been about interest rates today, and what they mean to the wheat farmers, he certainly cannot be sincere.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Having heard the hon. member, I am now in a position to make a ruling. I think that is not a point of order.

While I have the floor I would like to suggest to hon. members that although it is late and the debate may continue for a while yet, the general rules of decorum continue to be in existence. We have never permitted hon. members to bring drinking cups into the House of Commons. I do not think we should begin this procedure, even if it is late. I invite hon. members not to bring in coffee cups. I am not sure whether these cups contain coffee or what they may contain, but I think it is not appropriate to have them in the house.

**Mr. Lang:** Just a final few words, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to refer, in addition to those measures which are being taken in this area, to several others which have long-term importance. I refer to the creation this year of the Canada Grains Council which is designed to be a body which will help in great measure, both in research and markets. It will supply information to farmers about markets, and the difficult choices they will have to make willingly with regard to the products they ought to grow at any given time.

I want to refer to the importance of the market system which the Wheat Board is introducing, that is the block system, through which they expect great improvements in the moving of grain from the farm to the market. Early experiments with the block system have been very successful. It is being expanded into many other places in the prairies. The consultants' estimates had indicated initially that by a simple rearrangement of the manner of putting shipping orders and the request for cars into the proper places, the same equipment at home, en route and at the elevators could handle up to 50 per cent more grain with no additional change whatever.

• (12:20 a.m.)

These are the important things which are being done that in no way take away from the seriousness of the current situation which the Prime Minister so well recognized and described when on the prairies. I think hon. members opposite might once in a while notice these accomplishments while they proceed with their harangues.

**Mr. Gundlock:** Mr. Speaker, might I direct a question to the hon. member?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Lethbridge rises for the purpose of asking a question of the minister if the minister will allow it.

**Mr. Lang:** Yes.

**Mr. Gundlock:** Has the government considered shipment through the port of Churchill and all the ramifications of that decision?

**Mr. Lang:** I am very happy to be able to tell the hon. member that the Canadian Wheat Board arranged for sales of wheat through Churchill. Approximately 22 million bushels, at present reckoning, will go through that port at this time. I might say this reflects great credit on the management of the Wheat Board, because the placing of sales of wheat through that port came at a time when, because of marketing conditions, Canada was making no sales. That was before the lowering of prices in March. Despite that fact, the Wheat Board has managed to place this large quantity through Churchill.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit another question? He stated that Canadian penetration of world markets had increased significantly this year. Would the minister give the house some figures in respect of that increase.