

behind the glass I have seen for many winters. I do not understand how they can have it both ways.

I recall in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 members of the Conservative Party and members of the NDP raising Cain about the necessity for increased sales by the Canadian Wheat Board, and the prices were not very good. I think the Conservative Party and the NDP members in this House can take credit for some results finally being achieved. The government smartened up. The two ministers that we had in charge of the Wheat Board got off their butts and started to do some of the things that members of the Conservative Party and of our party were advocating in those three years, and the Wheat Board began making sales. Now, however, the members of the Conservative Party say that we sold it too cheaply. Well, Mr. Speaker, this curling behind the glass in terms of grain sales does not wash with farmers whom I know in Saskatchewan, and I know a few in Alberta and in Manitoba as well.

For the first time in many years we feel we are getting some results in terms of moving grain. For the first time in many years the price under the most recent contracts is somewhat improved over what we were putting up with two and three years ago. But I wish some member of the official opposition would explain to me how, if you signed a contract six or eight months ago that was to last for 12 months, and the buyer insisted on a price in the contract that was good for the whole 12 months, you could get today's price under the contract. If any more Conservatives will be speaking tonight I would like them to explain that to me, unless they are playing with a marked deck; and if they are, they are not going to keep many buyers around for very long. But if it is just a case of their wanting to curl behind the glass, they leave me with no other choice than to take this motion for what it is, that is, with a grain of salt.

The Conservatives have protested greatly today that their motion is not an attack on the Wheat Board. Right after that the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) said, "The Wheat Board sold wheat too cheaply." Mr. Speaker, I am not a fan of the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board; that is not a reputation I have established around here for the last 4½ years, going on to five years next week. But the hon. member for Lisgar and the mover of this motion both know that the Wheat Board handled all those negotiations, handled all those contracts and dealt with the customers, some of them with contracts for 12 months and delivery over 18 months. But oh no, Mr. Speaker, they are not attacking the Wheat Board although the hon. member for Lisgar said, "The Wheat Board sold wheat too cheaply."

The hon. member for Lisgar also says there should be some changes in the Wheat Board. I listened very carefully to hear what changes he had in mind. He did vaguely mention something about more freedom for farmers, but he did not explain what he meant by that. However, it sounded like some of the fellows from the Winnipeg Grain Exchange whom I have heard ad nauseam since I was knee-high to a blade of grass: it sounded very familiar. I would be very interested to hear what changes the Conservative Party envisages for the Canadian Wheat Board and for the whole principle of orderly marketing.

### Wheat Sales

Mr. Speaker, if I were anxious to bring the government down tonight I would have been delighted to help the official opposition draft a motion that I would have had to vote for. I would like to enumerate some things that could have been and should have been in a motion of this kind. I find it very strange that the Tories sit around blowing their chances. They have a golden opportunity. They are really hungry. And, of course, they want us to help them. I do not mind people being helpless, but this is ridiculous. This motion was drafted in this way for two reasons, (1) to attack the whole concept of orderly public marketing of grain, and (2) so as not to bring about the defeat of the government. A psychopathic moron could read the motion and realize that.

**Mr. Alexander:** And you did.

**Mr. Benjamin:** And I did. Mr. Speaker, something that could have been in this motion which the NDP would have found almost impossible to vote against would have been a resolution demanding that the government bring flax, rye and rapeseed—and reinstated feed grains—under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. That is something that I should vote for even if the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) had to hogtie me to try to get me out of here. That is a motion of non-confidence I could have voted for, Mr. Speaker.

All the crocodile tears and the lip service the old-line parties have paid to the orderly marketing of grain since 1935 leaves me cold. If they really believe in the concept, why would the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board decide that we must have some more studies to inform the farmers about the pros and cons of bringing flax, rye and rapeseed under the Canadian Wheat Board? Of course, the hon. member for Lisgar just reinforces my argument, and I can include him with the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board in this context, because if you really supported, believed in and were committed to orderly marketing and in bringing those grains under the Canadian Wheat Board, why would the minister or the official opposition have to help those who are against the concept present their arguments?

I am quite sure that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, some people in the Palliser Wheat Growers, some people in the Conservative Party, some people in the Liberal Party, some people with grain shipping interests and some people in the CPR, can quite capably present the arguments as to why those grains should not be under the Canadian Wheat Board. I wish that once and for all someone would answer this question. I have asked it every year, and this is the beginning of my fifth year here. Where do the Conservatives stand on bringing flax, rye and rapeseed, and on reinstating feed grains, under the Canadian Wheat Board? Are you for it or are you against it?

• (2050)

**An hon. Member:** Where do you stand?

**Mr. Benjamin:** We are for it. It is NDP policy, supported by every member of our caucus, to bring all those grains under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. We have no ifs, ands or buts about it. And where is the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, the