

Mr. WRIGHT: There is an instance which might easily occur—where the market dropped below the initial payment, then it would be spending public money and certainly should be included in these schedules?

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: Well, that again is a matter of opinion. I would think it is not desirable to include this special corporation in here.

Mr. WRIGHT: It is a matter of fact, not a matter of opinion at all. If the Wheat Board makes an initial payment and, in disposing of the crop they find they have a deficit—

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: They would not be using public moneys, Mr. Wright—unless parliament saw fit to vote it. The Wheat Board would borrow the money from the banks, presumably, in order to make the payment. It might be that parliament would have to fill up the hole—but I would hope it would not. However, at that stage they would not have spent public moneys; they would have spent corporation moneys that had been borrowed from the banks. It is true the taxpayers of Canada might have to make it good, but not at that point.

Mr. WRIGHT: On whose guarantee?

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: Well, I do not know.

Mr. WRIGHT: You should know.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: The usual I suppose—'tous les jours—c'est le taxpayer qui paye'.

Mr. CROLL: Are they not borrowing some money for that purpose now?

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: I cannot say. The Wheat Board makes its own arrangements with the banks, pays the rates of interest that the banks charge, and so on.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I think it is a matter of opinion after all—Mr. Wright has one opinion and the minister has another.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wright felt the matter should be dealt with in the committee and before it went to the House. That is why we kept this open.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: I am not suggesting that it is not arguable that the Wheat Board should be in with these others but I am putting forward the view that in my opinion it should not.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What is the advantage you see, Mr. Wright, in having the Wheat Board included in the schedules?

Mr. WRIGHT: That its accounts will be checked as these accounts are by parliament.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The report is sent to parliament now.

Mr. WRIGHT: It is presented to parliament now but there has not been opportunity given to consider that report in a committee of the House—as promised by the minister in charge four years ago—by Mr. MacKinnon, when he was the minister.

Mr. SINCLAIR: But it does not necessarily follow that because it is in one of the schedules it is going to be referred to one of the committees of the House?

Mr. WRIGHT: Not necessarily, but it comes under your Act here then, and this Crown Corporations Act does give you closer check over Crown corporations than you ever had before—but it does not give you any check over the Wheat Board unless it is included in one of these schedules.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other proposals? Is there any motion? Or do you want to leave the matter stand?

Mr. WRIGHT: I would move that until there is some change in the Wheat Board Act which would provide for some closer supervision by the government over the funds that it should be included in one of the schedules to this Act—it should be included in C.