

Supply—Trade and Commerce

that it was difficult to obtain for the domestic mill wheat of sufficiently high protein content to justify full-time milling.

Mr. Olson: Yes. I think that has been the case in the past. However, my information now is that since the new crop has come in, it has overcome this problem.

Mr. Benidickson: I was referring to past years.

Mr. Olson: One other thing we must remember is that the Canadian wheat board is the sole selling agency for the wheat in western Canada. Because of that fact I think it is only reasonable that the farmers in western Canada should expect the Canadian wheat board policies and the policies set up by this government for them to follow to be the best trade practices. Along that line I should like to make a suggestion, and it is this. All selling agencies, regardless of what they are selling, usually have stocks of their product where they are most easily accessible to the purchasers. I think that he should take into consideration storage in Europe and in other countries where our customers are. For the immediate picture, I think perhaps he could take into consideration offering our wheat on consignment to fill whatever unused storage there is in these areas at the moment. Then the customers could pay for this wheat as it is used. The hon. member for Cariboo some days ago suggested that we build some storage in England and in some other countries and I think this is a good idea. Perhaps immediately we could look into the matter and see how much unused storage there is there now and offer our wheat into that storage space until such time as perhaps we can get around these currency difficulties and so on. I think it would be a great deal better if we put this high quality food into this storage space. Whether they can get paid for it immediately or not, it would be better than to have it spoil in outdoor piles on the farms.

I should like to associate myself also with the remarks of the hon. member for Macleod to the effect that the time has come when we should stop complaining about the United States trade policy with regard to agricultural products. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that Mr. Benson has any intention of changing this policy. I think we should stop complaining. As long as we are going along with this horse and buggy policy we should not complain about the United States if they go by us with some new policy which is more fitted to modern requirements.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I should like to deal briefly with the gas and oil export problem. To begin with, I should like to refer to some

[Mr. Benidickson.]

newspaper articles to give members of this committee some idea of what our customers, or potential customers are thinking. This quotation is taken from the *Fargo Forum*, North Dakota, and it says:

The Canadian government apparently has killed, at least for several years, the possibility that Fargo-Moorhead and other cities in the Red river valley will get natural gas from Canada.

The report goes on to say that the attitude of the Canadian government—

—has been interpreted as an invitation to the United States federal power commission to turn down the application of Midwestern Gas Transmission Company for permission to build a natural gas transmission line from the Canadian border.

Then the writer of this article goes on to say:

Diefenbaker's statement was vague. He didn't actually block the export of gas from Canada, but he created conditions which put the federal power commission on the spot.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* believes he was deliberately vague and left it up to the federal power commission to deliver the knock-out blow because that won't put the Canadian government on the spot with voters in Alberta.

Further on in this report it says, and I quote:

But it doesn't appear as if North Dakota fields will serve the valley, at least for several years, because a sufficient supply has not been discovered.

Northern Natural Gas Transmission Company of Omaha has announced future plans for serving the Red river valley with gas from the southwest.

Mr. Chairman, this delayed action policy in the eyes of the people who are most concerned, namely our customers for this gas, is no good because they are not going to wait for a year, or two years, or for whatever time may be required by this government to give the signal to go ahead. They are looking to other places for supplies of fuel and while we wait on some power commission or energy commission we are going to lose these markets.

Here is another quotation taken from the *Lethbridge Herald* dated Washington, November 27:

Francis L. Hall of the federal power commission during the current hearing of an application by an American pipe line, Midwestern Gas Transportation Company, for permission to import gas from Trans-Canada.

Later, the writer says:

Failure of the Canadian authorities to act timely and definitely may well cause the power commission to consider that the Midwestern and Tennessee applications have reached the end of the road.

Mr. Smith (Calgary South): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I certainly have no objection to such a discussion as this. In fact, I should like to think that there would be some opportunity for a discussion on the question of gas export. But I should like