

Wheat Export Prices

the country are on a four bushel delivered quota right now; others are on three bushels; other areas have delivered five bushels. The price of wheat is nosediving on the international market and I plead with the government to heed the plight of farmers in western Canada. Let us forget all about the gimmicks and the bickering. Let us try to help the farmers of western Canada before it is too late.

Mr. Dinsdale: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gleave: We do not want handouts and charity; we want some plan that will enable our farmers to operate their farms. Many practical steps can be taken. For instance, it is amazing that the Canadian Wheat Board, which has been in operation for 20 years and has a pricing policy, should have no storage policy. We have never said that in this country "We will store this much grain and no more." In Saskatchewan we can now store an entire crop of grain on the farms. We have storage capacity in the elevators on the track and storage capacity at the terminal points. Why does the government not get down to cases and examine these facilities. Talk about a guaranteed income! The grain companies are the guaranteed income boys in western Canada.

An hon. Member: Richardson and Company.

Mr. Gleave: A storage policy should be worked out and we should determine how much grain we want to store and what that will cost. We could even pay farmers for the grain on the farm, and seal it up there. That grain will be available when needed, and will cost us less to store. Is it not ridiculous that in a country like Canada we have difficulty in moving the grade of grain we want to tidewater at the right time? Should we not examine our entire system of transportation with a view to making it more efficient? We want to move grain more efficiently. After all, we have a big investment in grain. Is the government not concerned about these matters?

The fellow who has been done to death in western Canada is the legitimate grain farmer. We relinquished our control over the feed mills and, now, the situation is completely out of control. Is it not ridiculous that farmers have to haul their wheat down the highways and sell it for a pittance to avoid having their tractors and trucks repossessed? That is what we are talking about, and that is what we ought to be concerned about. Only grain grown on a farmer's own land should be

delivered on a quota system. No other grain ought to be included and any one abusing his quota privileges ought to be called to account. The Departments of Agriculture, and Industry, Trade and Commerce ought to be concerned about this matter. We ought to enforce our quota system and try to expand our export markets to the maximum.

• (10:00 p.m.)

I think I am right in saying that from the time the International Grains Arrangement was signed the government and the Wheat Board found themselves in a bind, to put it bluntly, for two reasons. One is that the very large productive capacity of the Soviet Union was left out when, under the auspices of GATT we negotiated the new International Grains Arrangement. The U.S.S.R. was in the old International Wheat Agreement, but when we negotiated the I.G.A. the U.S.S.R. was left out. I am satisfied, after reading the record of what happened subsequently with the common market countries, that the second problem is that the International Grains Arrangement never came to terms with the common market countries.

The common market countries have done just as they wanted ever since. We have been trying to live with the grains arrangement and hold an umbrella over prices, in the face of countries who did not care whether a price was maintained or not. When I asked the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce about the situation with respect to importers, he said they wanted cheap wheat.

How cynical these countries are. They signed that agreement. As importers, they are equally responsible with exporters. How do we ever hope to have peace in the world if countries cannot be depended on to keep an ordinary commercial agreement? They should be called to account, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I have to interrupt the hon. member to remind him his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous agreement.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak in this debate on the situation in which prairie grain farmers find themselves, particularly in view of the recent cut in wheat prices by the United States which has been followed