

with smaller farmers in especially difficult circumstances since they have less ready access to capital with which to purchase these inputs.

The Liberal Party of Manitoba feels that agriculture should continue to share in the tremendous growth of Canada, and should, in fact, be a major contributor to its economic growth. It believes farm policies should be designed, from the long-term standpoint, to recognize the important contribution that agriculture can make.

The Liberal Party believes

- that policies to aid sub-marginal farmers and subsidized types of agriculture should be separate and distinct from those that are designed to increase productivity;
- that policies formulated to assist non-productive farm units do not hurt the growth and income position of productive units;
- that policies applied to one part of the country must not put farmers in another part of the country at a disadvantage, if this disadvantage is not an inherent one.

The Liberal Party of Manitoba earnestly solicits the support of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development towards accepting this principle:

That abundance and the ability to produce food in abundance is a wonderful gift that Canadian agriculture possesses. Canada must learn to live with this abundance and accept it, not as an evil but as something which is God's bounty. In view of the imminent world population explosion and the fact that even today, most people of the world live on subsistence-levels of food, it is foolhardy to accept any other long-term concept.

#### *Major Policies and Principles*

The Liberal Party of Manitoba feels the Committee may be interested in the Party's attitude towards certain agricultural policies which exist, and recommendations on certain policies which are needed, to achieve some of the objectives indicated earlier.

#### *1. Increase in Initial Payments*

The Liberal Party of Manitoba recommends that the initial price per bushel be raised by .25 on wheat, .14 on barley and .10 on oats. The extra money in the hands of the farmer will help him meet his bills, because many of his purchases are made under credit terms, charging interest.

The Party believes present market conditions merit this increase, and there is no risk to the Canadian taxpayer. The intent of the Wheat Board has always been to set the initial price enough below the expected realized price to have an adequate margin of safety.

In past years, the Wheat Board has advanced the initial price as price prospects improved, so the policy has already been established. They have also at times, used the practice of interim payments. We *do not favour* this policy and re-emphasize that an increase in the initial payment is of greater benefit to Western farmers.