

*Grain—Deficiency Payments*

And so I say to the hon. member for Assiniboia that only because of the rules of this house was it not possible for the Leader of the Opposition speaking on our behalf to rise at once and to say that we, too, have strong views about these matters. In fact, we have a stronger claim than the hon. gentleman because, while he has spent many active, interesting and imaginative years sitting on this side protesting, we have sat many years on that side of the house achieving.

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** Mr. Speaker, Rosthern constituency is a well-known agricultural area. It is probably best known as the home of world championship wheat—

**An hon. Member:** And Walter Tucker.

**Mr. Nasserden:**—the kind which first focused world attention on the superior quality of western grown wheat and cereals in the markets of the world that demand the best high protein wheat and flour. Besides that many championships in the pure bred classes for bacon hogs have come to our breeders and in other pure bred classes of livestock. I just want to say at this time in regard to dairying which is an important part of our economy in Rosthern constituency that the people there engaged in that industry are appreciative of what has been done by the present government and our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness) in this regard.

In recent years the grain producers in western Canada have known declining prices and rising costs and in their efforts to escape that situation they have turned to almost every avenue of revenue that could imaginably be turned to by people engaged in the agricultural industry. For instance, many of them have turned to the production of turkeys. After the experience of last year when the turkey industry was threatened by the dumping of United States turkeys on the Canadian market, I have yet to meet a turkey producer who was anything but "Diefenbaker, all the way".

As a result of the cost-price squeeze, many of our farmers have turned to the production of rapeseed and this acreage has increased until today many people believe that we may soon face a surplus in regard to that commodity. Many farmers have also turned to the production of flaxseed as a source of a cash crop. Generally speaking the producers of both those crops are well satisfied with the situation in that part of the industry. The notable exception to this is the question of freight rates on rapeseed which are so high that they constitute a very limiting factor in returning to the producer a full share of the selling price for that commodity. I have discussed this matter with several members of

the cabinet and I am sure that when a decision is reached it will benefit the producers of that particular commodity.

The situation in regard to durum wheat is anything but rosy. There are many bushels which have been stored on farms for several months now. Some of the storage dates back to the time when the Liberal government was in power and when this grain is ultimately sold it will be sold at only a fraction of the cost that prevailed at the date the grain was grown by the farmers in those areas.

As hon. members know the price of rye is based on the open market and therefore subject to the wide fluctuations that used to prevail in the marketing of wheat, oats and barley before the advent of the Canadian wheat board as the sole marketing agency of western grown grains. There is a well founded feeling in many parts of western Canada and particularly among those who produce rye that as long as the government is not prepared to handle rye on the same basis as wheat, oats and barley, then the restriction in the marketing of this commodity should be relaxed so that a farmer might take advantage of the price when it suited him under that kind of situation. Once again I recommend this particular matter for the consideration of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill) and other members of the cabinet.

Something has been said here tonight and on other occasions about Bill No. 237 and what it does and does not do for the farm people of Canada. All I want to say about it is very little but I want to say this—

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest to the hon. member that it would not be in order to go on discussing Bill No. 237. This is a grievance period, when only one grievance is supposed to be discussed. I take it we are discussing the question of deficiency payments and the government's policy on that matter.

**Mr. Nasserden:** I would like to thank the Speaker for the guidance he sought to give me. I would also like to point out it has a bearing on the situation of deficiency payments on grain in western Canada, but on the whole I shall try to tie myself very closely to the subject under discussion.

Each year farmers in western Canada have seen a widening of the gap between the income that they have received and the income received by other groups in this country and I predict that within the period of the next three years, unless something is done to indicate to western growers that the Canadian people want them as the producers of cereal grains, we shall see in western Canada a turn to the production of dairy products, poultry and hog and beef products,