

because the large scale farmer of today becomes the operator of a small farm tomorrow, if we carry out a policy of this kind. Indeed, carrying this theory to the extreme, we could end up having only one farm. The Prime Minister likes to explain himself in that manner, by carrying things to extremes.

The minister in charge of the Wheat Board comes from western Canada, from the Province of Saskatchewan. He should know what wheat has meant to the economy of that province. He should know how short of money the farmers are in that province. But either he does not care about the people there, or he has no authority. I like to think it is the latter, because I believe the minister must care. He would not have run for election to Parliament if he had not cared a little for his constituency. On coming here, though, he realized that the policies had already been laid down by the bureaucracy in Ottawa. His job was only to carry them out, to administer them and to pilot the necessary bills through the House.

When the present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was in charge of the Wheat Board he used to say he had nothing to do with the affairs of the Board. The Wheat Board sold wheat. Today, quite evidently, the Board does not run its own affairs. A representative of the Board, an able gentleman, was asked a number of questions in the committee this morning to which he replied: "I cannot supply the answers." He could not supply the answers because he knew the Wheat Board is now being directed from Ottawa. This is wrong. There should be an amendment to the Wheat Board Act giving the farmers the right to elect a member to the Wheat Board. The Board is composed of five members. I would think that two, or better still three of them, should be elected, one from each of the Prairie provinces, so that the farmers would have a representative on the Board who would be responsible to them. This is one provision that should be in the act and is not. For too long the Wheat Board has been accused of not making sales, of being reluctant to make sales or of adjusting the price of grain, and this has caused anxiety and concern. If the farmers had a voice on the Canadian Wheat Board, the Wheat Board would then be directly in touch with the farmers whose grain they are selling, and any anxiety in the country would immediately be reflected in the decisions of the Board.

• (4:00 p.m.)

This bill is asking for permission to put rapeseed, flaxseed and rye under the control of the Canadian Wheat Board. In a press release recently—the minister is the greatest fellow for press releases—he said he had no intention of putting these crops under the full control of the Canadian Wheat Board, that he would consult the producers first. This reminds me of the famous Bill C-176. The minister had no intention of taking the cattlemen into the bill, so he told the cattlemen. He said he would eliminate them from the bill, but he has not done so yet. The minister has stated that he has no intention of ever creating a cattle marketing agency.

Do you really think, Mr. Speaker, that the minister would consult the producers of rapeseed before plac-

#### *Canadian Wheat Board Act*

ing rapeseed under the rigid control of the Canadian Wheat Board? Would he do that in view of the fact that he brought in this bill without even consulting them? The *Western Producer* carried an article recently in which it said that when the minister attended a meeting on the Prairies he was amazed to learn that the rapeseed growers did not come within the control of the Canadian Wheat Board. I see the minister is smiling at that, and I know he does not want me to read the article because it is slightly embarrassing. It goes on to say that the minister from Saskatoon put his head on the chopping block, and certainly I would not want to put his head on the chopping block.

**Mr. Lang:** You have had it there so often. My head, I mean.

**Mr. Horner:** I am sorry if I have left that impression because that is far from my mind. What I am asking is whether, as producers, we can believe that this government will consult us in view of the fact that it made no attempt to have prior consultation with the producers before introducing this bill to Parliament. The minister issues a press release in which he says these producers will never come under Canadian Wheat Board control or be included in the bill. This leads me to ask why they were put in the bill in the first place. This business of bringing in a piece of legislation, including provisions offering the producers, and then turning round and trying to reassure the producers that they will be unaffected by the bill just not good enough. Alarm has been expressed by our customers throughout the world at this measure. They want to retain their present flexible arrangement whereby they are able to buy rapeseed, in particular, without going through the Canadian Wheat Board. Rapeseed, flaxseed and rye are considered to be what are commonly known as cash crops; producers can grow these crops and sell them.

I should like to ask the minister whether it is his intention to pool the price of these grains when he does give control of them to the Canadian Wheat Board. He will probably consider the situation for some time, and if he does put them under the control of the Wheat Board perhaps he will pool the prices. I should like to know whether this is his intention, or whether he is doing this in order to make his grain stabilization program work and to enable him to keep accurate accounts of the cash received by the farmers.

I think it is a combination of both these two factors, but what is going to be the net result? Already alarm has been caused our customers. The farmers foresee it being slightly more difficult in the future to market their grains. For years we have had a surplus of wheat, and I think we should continue to have a surplus of wheat. I say this because we are entering a period of what I refer to as surge buying on the part of various countries. China and Russia have had crop failures I think three years out of the last ten and bought huge amounts of grain from Canada; we were fortunate to have that grain available. Under the program the minister is now carrying out, the amount of grain in commercial storage will be reduced.