

GRAIN STABILIZATION PROPOSALS

The following statement was made on October 29 by Mr. Otto E. Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, in the House of Commons after tabling proposals for a production and grain-receipts policy for the Western grains industry:

Highlighting the proposals which I tabled in the House of Commons today are a comprehensive market-development program for grains and oilseeds, an aggressive feedgrain marketing policy, and a plan to stabilize cash receipts.

The market-development program will include a variety of activities to market Canadian grains and oilseeds in markets where Canada has not been a recent supplier and to increase Canadian sales in existing markets. A product research-and-development program would be established, with emphasis on the development of new grain and oilseed products. It is proposed that the Government provide up to \$10 million annually for these programs.

Until recently, Canada has not been a major factor in the world feedgrains market. It is proposed that Canada aggressively pursue a policy of substantially increasing exports of feedgrains, principally barley. To meet these objectives will require competitive pricing and continuity of supply. Initial prices to farmers would be fixed having regard to desired production levels. Prices to the buyers would be determined by the competitive market circumstances.

The plan to stabilize cash receipts will ensure that total receipts by all farmers in any year would be at least as high as the preceding five-year average. The plan would apply to all permit-holders up to a maximum for each.

Producers would contribute a small percentage of their receipts from qualified crops each year and the Government would contribute the balance of funds required for the plan. It is expected that the plan would pay to producers over \$100 million in 1971.

ESKIMO AIRMAN TURNS AUTHOR

The first novel written in English by an Eskimo was presented to the National Library of Canada by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on November 2. The book, *Harpoon of the Hunter* is by Markoosie, a 27-year-old resident of Resolute, on Cornwallis Island in the Northwest Territories, who is a licenced airline pilot. His novel was accepted by Mr. Guy Sylvestre, the National Librarian.

THE STORY

Harpoon of the Hunter tells the story of Kamik, a young Eskimo who achieves manhood during a hunt for a wounded polar bear. The author describes the boy's long and arduous journey home after his companions are killed. It has been described as a "gripping" tale portraying life in a hostile environment.

Paying tribute to the young author, Mr. Chrétien said: "The gift of story-telling is part of the cultural heritage of Canada's native peoples and is possessed in rare measure by Markoosie. His novel is a unique and important addition to the growing body of literature being created by Canada's Eskimo and Indian writers."

The book, released in Montreal, was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in co-operation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The story first appeared in instalments (written by Markoosie in Eskimo syllabics) in *Innutituut*, a Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development publication for Eskimos. A collection of ghost stories by Markoosie will shortly appear in *North*, another departmental magazine.

Markoosie's work has so impressed his publisher that a full-scale promotion and publicity program in both Canada and the United States has been launched. Markoosie will be interviewed on television and radio and is scheduled to make personal appearances in a number of major centres in both countries.

REVIEWING THE ROLE OF THE WORLD COURT

The following statement was made on October 29 to the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian representative, Mr. E.G. Lee:

I wish to speak today as one of the co-sponsors of the inscription of this item on our agenda (as one of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution before us on this item) to urge delegations to give serious consideration to the proposal that ways and means be found to increase the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice. In view of the fact that the Court is at present conducting a review of its rules, the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to con-

sider suggestions to enhance its effectiveness is most timely. It is not our intention to focus at this time on basic questions such as those relating to the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court but rather to examine some of the procedural aspects of the Court's work.

The Ad Hoc Committee should, in our view, examine, among other matters, certain concrete suggestions that have been put forward over the years to streamline the procedures of the Court within the context of the present provisions of the Court. Without in any sense attempting to preclude an examination by the Ad Hoc Committee of other