

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Tuesday, February 24, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### GRAIN

##### TABLING OF REPORT ON DELIVERY QUOTA SYSTEM

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, on January 21 I announced the appointment of a three-man committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the delivery quota system for western Canadian grain. That committee has now reported.

The report of the committee includes recommendations for important changes in the quota system including the abolition of unit quotas and the removal of forage and other crops not subject to the quota delivery system from the acreage base used in determining delivery rights. This report will be made available to all interested persons and organizations and in the coming few weeks I am looking forward to receiving their comments and recommendations.

This report deals with a delivery quota system designed to regulate deliveries in future years. I expect in the near future to be able to indicate any special provisions with respect to deliveries in 1970-71 which may be required to deal with the current unusual surplus position in wheat.

I now wish to table pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2), in both official languages, copies of the report entitled "Report on Delivery Quota System for Western Canadian Grain".

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, a few minutes before I entered the House I was handed a copy, as it is proper to do, of the statement the minister has presented to the House. First of all, I should like to raise an objection to the composition of the committee that the minister appointed, and I think my objection is a valid one from the producers' point of view.

Although the committee was composed of representatives of the grain growing community, one each from the Saskatchewan

Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers and the Canadian Wheat Board, they represent the organizations that are charged with the responsibility of handling grain. They are not people who are involved in the actual production of grain and they may view the problems from an entirely different angle than the producers. My first objection is that too many regulations which committees have to study are prepared by civil servants who plan them so as to make life easy for themselves. In addition, too many lawyers are involved in the drafting of legislation to come before this House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Korchinski:** They have one thing in mind, namely, how do you defend this kind of case in court? The people who are going to become involved in litigation are not considered.

● (2:10 p.m.)

In light of this objection, I suggest that a further study be made of this entire question so that the producers themselves will be able to put forward their recommendations. I have received a series of letters on this entire question. Some of these people are members of Wheat Pool committees at the country level and they ask whether their suggestions have been forwarded or channelled through the minister to the right people. I cannot sincerely answer yes or no to this type of inquiry. I hope the minister will allow the Standing Committee on Agriculture to study this matter before any conclusion is arrived at in respect of the entire feed grain question which the committee is considering at this time.

What we are talking about is a quota system. Such a system, regardless of whether it involves wheat or another commodity, implies restrictions, and restrictions involve sacrifices. What we are really talking about here is the kind of sacrifices the farmers are prepared to accept. It is the farmers who will have to accept them, not the Wheat Board or the grain handling people. They will get their money when the grain is in storage.

I emphasize the need for an inquiry at the producer level. A system could be worked out whereby a quota which has not been fully