

Canadian Wheat Board Act

authority of the Wheat Board. When the minister stabilizes grain receipts, what yardstick will he use? How will he determine how much is to be received and by whom? Although the minister has suggested that rapeseed will not be included, I am not reassured. I should like to know how that stabilization policy will affect the western elevator system.

The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) suggested that the elevator companies are making the money. He said that the elevator companies are the big birds we should watch for. Frankly, I am wondering how the elevator system will survive in the next year or two if we implement this stabilization program. What effect will removal of elevators have on the small communities? I can just imagine the sort of struggle that will go on between communities which want an elevator near them.

I have lived in small communities and I know how badly some of them want a little hospital or municipal office in their midst. They want something that will attract people. If you remove their elevators—and this is bound to happen—what will the farmers of the area say? If the elevators go, it will mean that costs will go up. I should like to see just how this master plan will work, the master plan that says we must include rapeseed, flax and rye under the authority of the Wheat Board. Is the Wheat Board to control everything we do? Theoretically, that may be the effect of this bill.

I am saying that this bill is an unholy mess and I am afraid of the effect it will have on our communities and on our producers. I know some people will say, "We were stymied with wheat, so why should we be stymied with rapeseed?" They will say, "We were in trouble when we tried to move wheat from province to province, let alone out of the country." I ask the minister why he must enter this area right now.

None of the growers support this bill. The Rapeseed Growers' Association do not want it. The committee which studied this matter does not want it. The only group that wants it is the group to my left—to satisfy their dream of Utopia, where the state has everything.

• (8:20 p.m.)

An hon. Member: You are kidding.

Mr. Korchinski: I am not kidding. I either believe you or I do not. Either you tell me what you believe or there is no point saying it. I want to know how the minister will go about this. If the minister would hold a plebiscite and if the plebiscite indicated that the producers wanted in, there would be only a five-minute debate in the House. Who would oppose it if the plebiscite so indicated it was the producers' wish? If a plebiscite is held, every permit book holder should not be asked his opinion. As I pointed out, the egg producer is not the one who produces the grain that feeds the chickens that lay the eggs.

If the minister is serious with regard to flaxseed and rye, I am not greatly concerned. However, I am vitally concerned about the rapeseed industry. That industry has not been developed. It has a long way to go. As a matter of fact, western Canada is just tapping the eastern

[Mr. Korchinski.]

market. We want to be able to compete with the Soviet industry, the peanut oil industry, the coconut oil industry, and so on. Are we going to be successful, or are we going to be stymied by bureaucratic inertia? These people have a direct interest—their survival. This crop has been their only income for a long time. It is the only income for many people who produce rapeseed; that is why they went into production. Although they did not know anything about rapeseed, they saw that their neighbours were able to sell it. They sat and wondered what to do next. They talked to their bankers. While interest rates were going up and up, the rapeseed producers had a few dollars at their disposal.

I plead with the minister to withdraw this clause. If a plebiscite were held and its results were in the affirmative, I assure the minister that this bill would be passed in five minutes. Bills have been passed in short order, without contention. It does not require a lengthy procedure. We would have to go through the procedure just as we do on first reading of a bill.

Either the minister's words mean something or they do not. His master plan must mean something. There will be a link missing from it if this clause is not included; perhaps that is the reason he will not withdraw it. If the minister has a plan, I as a producer would like to know the details of the plan. I would like to be able to tell something to the producers in my area. I would like to know how many elevators will be left. I would like to know how we are to survive under this master plan that the master-mind has produced.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few comments on Bill C-238, particularly as it relates to the inclusion of flax, rye and rapeseed. The other clauses of the bill are basically consequential and I find no fault with them.

In his original statement the minister again caused a great deal of confusion in the minds of many producers and saw fit to bring out press releases in order to try and alleviate some of the fears. Frankly, I do not know where the minister or the government stand on this measure. I do not know whether they favour the inclusion of flax, rye and rapeseed or whether they are leaving it to the whim of those who assert the most pressure. If the government is not firmly established in its position, I ask the minister why he has bothered bringing in the legislation at this time.

In his press release the minister stated:

—these sections may never be used and certainly will not be used except after full support of the move is received from producers based on a thorough discussion of the issues.

Like the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski), I ask how these consultations will be carried out. Will there be discussions? Will it be done in the form of a plebiscite? Will it be based on the reactions and representations of the various farm producer groups, or by way of plebiscite? If consultations are held, I hope they are better than those which were carried out before Operation Lift was instituted.