

Section 8 states:

Every general provincial distributor who has sold or distributed implements, or has implements sold or distributed on his behalf, and those implements are in operation in the province, who fails to maintain in the province an adequate supply of repairs that may be required for those implements is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.

That is a broad summary of the legislation in Saskatchewan. But since Saskatchewan really has no authority over machine companies who bring equipment into the province or over machine companies located in Ontario, the authority of the province is somewhat limited. In summary, then, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Agricultural Implements Act in the province of Saskatchewan and the Agricultural Implements Board, which is a creature of the act, is to make sure that any new implement sold in the province is backed by a responsible distributor. Second, its purpose is to give consumer protection through sales contracts, with specific warranties and conditions. Third, it provides for a mediator to assist in disputes with an implement dealer or manufacturer on warranties and contracts. Fourth, it provides protection against costly losses due to negligence by manufacturers or distributors in honouring warranties or providing parts. Fifth, it helps in the location and delivery of parts, and lastly provides compensation payments from a fund to be established in the near future. Farmers may be compensated for losses or damages because of delayed parts delivery or poor warranty service.

● (1710)

In 1967 the province of Alberta passed the farm implement act. Section 7(1) of this act states:

Notwithstanding anything contained in the agreement, every sale agreement of a new farm implement shall be deemed to contain a warranty that a sufficient supply of repair parts for the implement will be made available by the vendor for a period of 10 years from the date of agreement.

(2) Repair parts shall be made available to the purchaser within a reasonable length of time after a request therefor is made to the vendor, but the vendor is not responsible for any delay in delivering a required part that is due to circumstances beyond his control.

With regard to this particular section, Mr. Speaker, I argue that if the vendor is not responsible for delay due to circumstances beyond his control, then there is not much that can be done for a farmer if the delay occurs in a factory in Ontario where the required parts are being manufactured. Therefore, this simply lends credence to the fact that we need a new national act such as the one I am proposing today in order to ensure that all motor vehicles and farm implements are guaranteed a supply of parts for at least 10 years.

I should indicate that this year the province of Saskatchewan is in the process of passing an act entitled "the Agricultural Machinery Institute Act". I believe there is co-operation with the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba in this respect. This institute, by the way, was also recommended by the Barber Royal Commission on Farm Machinery, and I am glad that the federal government is co-operating in this regard. Its main function is to test and appraise under actual or similar working conditions machinery that is sold or is intended for sale, to undertake development work to improve and develop machinery for agricultural use, and to publish reports, pamphlets and

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bulletins which will be passed on to the farmers regarding the status of certain types of farm machinery. There have been some advances made, but I still feel that we need an act that is national in scope.

In this regard I received a letter from a farmer some time ago who had this to say:

The farmers of western Canada and I am sure the ones in the east have been subjected to more "legal and illegal rustling" by offshore companies than by any other "rustlers".

He is applying this expression to farm machinery companies which he feels have not always met their obligations.

One of the resolutions passed by one of the farmers organizations in the west concerning farm machinery read as follows:

Be it resolved that farm machinery companies and their dealers be held responsible to uphold any warranties or conditions stated in the bill of sale or instruction manual and in default of this responsibility, their license be suspended until all losses incurred by the farmer are paid by them.

I might indicate that this resolution has been partly resolved by some of the provincial acts that I cited earlier.

There were many recommendations in the Barber Royal Commission on Farm Machinery. This government has not acted on too many of the recommendations, though I must say it has acted on a few of them. However, I am particularly interested in the Barber Royal Commission statement in their report on farm machinery parts, which is as follows:

Farmers repeatedly complain about the difficulty frequently encountered in obtaining spare parts to repair farm machinery, particularly when it breaks down in the field during peak seasonal activity. Occasionally a part ordered on a routine basis in the off season may turn into a part needed on an emergency basis because the part is out of stock, and a long delay occurs before it becomes available. All companies should develop some method of dealing with this situation. Farmers also frequently complain of their inability to find out when the required part will arrive. If all companies could provide their dealers with a prompt estimate of how long it would require to fill an out-of-stock emergency order, the farmer involved would be better able to deal with his problem. In some situations he might be able to have a substitute part produced in a local machine shop.

I feel it should be the responsibility of the machine companies as well as the automobile companies to provide a supply of parts for at least 10 years, perhaps I might even say for 20 years if we want to preserve our resources. As I said earlier, it seems to me that we live in a society of deliberate obsolescence. There would be far less waste in our society if the various farm machinery companies and motorized vehicle companies planned to ensure that they had an adequate supply of parts for equipment and implements in every province of Canada in which they do business. I am not sure that this is always the case. In other words, I feel there should be a central warehouse, or several central warehouses, in each province conveniently located, stocked with a good supply of parts which would be available to farmers within a few hours' notice. If they are not, then the companies should be held liable.

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in supporting this bill presented to the House by the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Nesdoly). I understand some of the problems that are inherent in our agricultural machinery industry, but I wonder why