

Supply—Agriculture

But if it is, it is not enough. The basic concept is that grain must be moved. The only flour sales being made today are to Russia, which in turn passes it on to Cuba—a very shaky commitment indeed, I suggest.

In regard to the provision of grain drying facilities, I suggest that the government appoint a western grain drying committee to co-ordinate use of all available farm dryers—

Mr. Olson: This is already being done.

Mr. Horner: The minister says that this is already being done. I did not hear him say so in the agricultural committee this morning or in his speech this afternoon. As I was saying, the government should appoint a co-ordinator to ensure that all available dryers are put to use.

This morning during the standing committee hearings the minister suggested that the government has already established one drying point at Saskatoon which is being operated on a turn-around basis. In other words, farmers bring their grain to this facility, dry it and then it is taken back to the farm. Generally speaking, about 40 per cent of the grain grown in the Saskatoon neighbourhood is tough and damp. The same can be said of the grain grown in southern Manitoba.

The minister also told the committee this morning that he had had meetings at various places in the west. I suggest that these meetings should have been held two months ago. It was obvious on October 1 that this was going to be a difficult harvesting year. One had only to look at the amount of harvesting that had been done by October 1 to assess the situation.

I would also point out that at one point the government suggested that it would remove the tariff on dryers. The newspapers—and I do not blame them—flooded the country with reports of big reductions in the tariff on grain dryers. It subsequently turned out that there never was a tariff on grain dryers used on farms. My question asked in this house some weeks ago was directed to the removal of the tariff on commercial, stationary grain dryers, and this the government has done. I also suggest that the government should set up temporary stationary grain dryers at various points on the prairies; I suggest several in southern Manitoba, several in northern Saskatchewan and several in northern Alberta.

I now want to look at the feed grain position, Mr. Chairman. I think the government is hoping that the chickens in the constituency

[Mr. Horner.]

of Fraser Valley East are going to eat all of this feed grain, or that it is going to be shipped somewhere else. We are going to have a surplus of feed grain and unless some action is taken to dispose of it this grain is just going to decay.

I also suggested in the agricultural committee that the duty on steel, glass-lined silos imported from the United States be removed. In the United States these silos were used to store high moisture corn and they could be similarly used in Canada to store high moisture barley and other feed grains. These silos are not manufactured in Canada, so I see no reason why this duty should not be removed. Knowing the tariff structure in Canada as it relates to agricultural implements it may well be that the machinery used to empty and load these silos is duty free, but the major cost is the building itself, which amounts to between \$7,000 and \$8,000. If this duty were removed it would help a few farmers, though perhaps not many.

I should also like to draw to the attention of this committee what the Economic Council of Canada had to say regarding research in the plants division. There is lots of evidence to suggest that the United States has made major gains in research into the growing of corn. New varieties of wheat have been developed in Mexico. I suggest that not enough money has been put into plant research in Canada. Private industry has not been enticed to enter into the field of plant research to any great extent. I suggest that instead of giving a grant of \$75,000 to Crane to keep people out of bathrooms, the minister would have done better to make larger grants to private industry to encourage broader based research. It is all well and good to conduct this sort of research in universities and at the federal government headquarters at Ottawa, but surely we are lagging behind other countries.

For example, Mr. Chairman, may I refer you to the statistics published on page 2 of the Alberta Wheat Pool Budget. According to the pool, for every one million acres planted in the United States there are three wheat research scientists, but for every one million acres planted in Canada there are only two. Further, a breakdown among the federal and provincial governments and the universities investigated revealed that there are 219 professional researchers working on horticultural crops and 113 on cereal crops. I have nothing against horticultural crops—

The Chairman: Order, please.