

*Government Orders*

If you do not have a program in place that will help the shipment of grain at different times of the year, after the freeze of the lake or after other low prices of grain are there, we all know that when we take grain off during those four weeks, there is a tremendous amount on the market. The price drops quite dramatically. However, three, four, five, or six months later, the price of grain escalates quite dramatically.

To make it fair for those producers to sell their grain, not all at one time as though everyone is dumping it at the same time, a grain transportation program was put in place and elevator programs were put in place so that the grain could be taken to elevators on Georgian Bay or to other areas of Canada, stored there until such time that the price of grain improved and the grain could be sold.

With this particular bill coming into place, of three elevators on Georgian Bay, one has already been sold and two are up for sale at this point in time. This indicates that that orderly marketing, that chance that they have to sell grain throughout the winter and through the next spring, is lost. We also know that there is insufficient storage for grains in Canada and, without a grain transportation bill, those depots, those storage areas will diminish and as a result the Canadian farmer, the grain producer in particular, is going to be in a more difficult situation.

Non-availability of rail structures means a great deal to the demise of the price of wheat throughout the Canadian production. Ontario wheat producers produce 700,000 tonnes of wheat, 450,000 tonnes of which is exported at the best market price possible. As a result, there will be bottlenecks and stoppages where producers will not be able to gain the best market for their grain.

The government, in undermining the at and east bill, also moves along to undermine orderly marketing. Removal of at and east places in jeopardy the ability to move and export grains to customers in many different regions as well. The Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board indicated that the program will totally undermine the orderly marketing procedure. What the at and east program would in fact do or has done is diminish the

chances of bottlenecking of products and sales all at one time.

• (1610)

Let us look back at the issue of free trade. As the government continues down its unilateral process to reduce the agriculture programs and subsidies that have been in place for several years, the U.S. has not taken one step in dealing with its programs and its subsidies. The Atlantic Provincial Transportation Commission has recommended the removal of countervail duties on American corn. Reactions such as this not only hurt the existing situation, but damage the economy in other parts of Canada.

If we allow American grain into Canada, the Atlantic producers, Ontario producers or western producers will suffer a great deal of hardship. This program seems to divide our country quite dramatically. It pits one area against another. Those kinds of issues should have been taken into account before this transportation bill was brought into effect.

Even though the at and east subsidy was announced in 1989 and the bill was not presented until June 1989, subsidies ceased on July 26, 1989. We are now debating the bill in April, going on May 1990, when subsidies were cut last July. We certainly have to look at the government and its respect for the parliamentary process.

Railroads have been instructed to take their lost subsidies into account as of July 1989. The government bypassed the House of Commons and bypassed the parliamentary process in doing such. Why are we here debating nine months after the actions of the bill have been taken? It seems quite ridiculous and quite unacceptable that we are in this position at this time. This government continues to do that type of thing. It not only loses credibility with the Canadian public but it loses credibility with everyone involved in any programs. At any time the government can retroactively cancel a program and take back the money or subsidies that have been put in place by bills or other measures.

People functioning under many of our programs have to be very confused and upset. They have to wonder whether the grant they are receiving is going to be