

*Canada Grain Act*

have in place, to segregate grain according to minimum protein content. To the extent that we are capable of doing that, I think we should begin very soon. Indeed, some experimentation has been done along this line already. What is more, the millers of Canada who are aware of where the various levels of protein grade grain are to be found—this is done by shipping points—in fact place orders at particular shipping points depending on the protein tests made on wheat grown in the area in any given year, though this changes from time to time.

Another factor is that some of the grain coming out of that shipping point may be current year grain or grain stored from last year, or indeed the year before. This makes for more imperfection, of course, but the fact is that the mills which have been calling grain forward on this basis for their own purpose have been able to get grain with about 1 per cent higher protein than the average level for the whole crop.

I commend this bill to the members of the House of Commons for their consideration and trust that hon. members will very shortly see fit to send it to the Standing Committee on Agriculture which will call experts and go into the detail of the various clauses. In conclusion, I suggest the bill does meet the modern requirements of our grain handling system, and I hope hon. members see fit to pass it in time for the government to put many of the provisions into effect with the beginning of the new crop year.

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should first like to reply to the statement of the minister that he believed that some action should be taken in regard to giving an assurance to our customers that we can supply a certain level of protein wheat, even at this stage. I do not think there would be too much reaction, particularly at this time of glut, if the government were to decide to take immediate action in this regard. In fact, I am rather surprised that there has not been any effort made in the last little while to accomplish this.

**Mr. Olson:** Yes, there has.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I realize that the block system is part of the over-all plan. However, I think we should proceed one step further and actually tell our customers that it is quite a simple matter to draw wheat from a given area. However, I will not go into the detail of that.

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With regard to another suggestion that the minister made concerning making a check-off, I have an entirely different reaction. I believe there will be a certain amount of opposition to this suggestion, and for this reason perhaps the minister has hesitated in introducing it. He nods his head to indicate that is not the case, but whatever the reasons may be, in view of the fact that the government went to the Canada Grain Council for advice on the LIFT program, all the producers in the west, and in the east too for that matter, will be very reluctant to accept a check-off system.

Although this bill is long overdue and it has many aspects of which I approve, nevertheless I am surprised that the LIFT program should have been introduced at this stage. I suggest we should have examined the merits of other courses of action. The task force on agriculture made the suggestion that we wait ten years before cutting down on total acreage. Yet the government thinks this can be done overnight and makes no provision for a period of adjustment.

The introduction of a measure to bring the Canada Grain Act up to date will probably be better received by the western farmers than was operation LIFT, and there are several reasons for this. First of all, the farmers are conditioned for the measure. They know the merits of it, they have discussed it and, as the minister indicated, they have asked him for it. Secondly, and perhaps a more valid reason, more farmers feel they will gain advantage from the changes in the Canada Grain Act. The LIFT program was a sort of negative program, whereas this is a positive piece of legislation. However, even though it is positive its passage will create many difficulties. The people who feel they will benefit from it most are the farmers within what is called the Palliser triangle. That, of course, does not include all grain farmers. The Palliser triangle includes only two-thirds of the western farmers. This will exclude one-third of the people from what they consider to be the benefits of the provisions under which protein grading will become a more important factor. Let us not look for miracles because of protein grading.

• (9:10 p.m.)

We are trying to regain ground we have lost—and the loss has been tremendous. During the last war we held about 40 per cent of world wheat markets. We have dropped to holding about 18 per cent of those markets,