

*Wheat*

conservation in that regard, but very little, if anything, has been done with respect to soil conservation. In the last few years the farmer's income has been going down and his costs going up. He has been caught in a price squeeze. Because of this fact, the hit-or-miss policy applicable to agriculture and the vagaries of a system whereby he cannot tell from year to year what his income is going to be, he cannot launch upon a proper and wise soil conservation program in his farming operations. Neither can he follow proper land utilization. If a farmer is going to do these two things, namely, conserve the nutrient content of the soil and practise soil conservation measures so as to have the ultimate use of his land, he must know whether he is going to get a fair return when he engages in one type of production or another.

If we are fighting to try to preserve freedom, if we are trying to preserve those things in our democracy in which most of us believe, then I feel that this measure does not meet that need. Therefore I hope the government will reconsider it. If they do not do so at this session I hope that when they have made this first halting step they will see fit subsequently to bring in more adequate legislation to establish the ever-normal granary. For the benefit of the people of Canada and, indeed, to feed hungry people throughout the world, an ever-normal granary policy should be established in this country.

I should like to deal briefly with the effect that I think the program outlined in the resolution will have on the world picture. We are, I am sure, all interested in orderly marketing. The farmers of western Canada have endorsed such a policy and supported the Canadian wheat board for many years. We believe that the old type of marketing under the Winnipeg grain exchange was not in the interests of the western farmers and, indeed, was not in the interests of the Canadian people. When the members of the C.C.F. party come to this house and try to express the opinions of the western farmers I think we are doing a service to everyone in Canada regardless of their occupation. Whether a person lives in British Columbia or Nova Scotia their income and standard of living will be affected unless a fair deal is given to the people who work in that great bread-basket of western Canada to produce wheat to feed our people and for export. The government must wake up and see that from the point of view of trading our wheat and engaging in international commerce we should establish in this country a stock of grain on the basis of which we can enter into long-term agreements with other nations. I feel

it is rather presumptuous on the part of the government to expect importing countries to enter into agreements with us on a long-term basis if the government and the country are not prepared to guarantee delivery of grain to these countries under such an agreement.

That has been the situation in the past. We have had no program. The onus and responsibility for growing the wheat and storing it has been placed entirely on the backs of the western farmers. I am happy that the government has seen fit to go at least this far. I think each and every one of us realizes that a tremendous fight is going on throughout the world. It is a fight of ideologies, a fight where the ideology that will catch the imagination of men's minds will be successful in the end. If we join with other countries to bring about an international food bank out of which we can help to feed hungry people throughout the world we will have done more for democracy and the freedom of the world than all the munitions of war we can ever hope to produce. I am very happy that here at least is the first faint beginning of that sort of thing.

I realize that in the international field you have to have international co-operation, but perhaps one reason why we have not been successful in that regard to date is that we have never been prepared to do it at home. I sometimes think that the government is more interested in trying to maintain something which is as dead as the dodo, namely, the capitalist system, the free enterprise system. There is very little free enterprise of any sort left. I could have brought into the house a whole stack of reports of investigations under the Combines Investigation Act which would have shown clearly that there is very little free enterprise left and that on the other hand there is collusion and price fixing so that free enterprise is pretty well removed from our country.

Getting back to the international picture and a world food bank, in the final analysis I believe food may well be the deciding factor with respect to whether we shall have a free world or a world enslaved. I am very happy to support the resolution.

**Mr. Decore:** Mr. Chairman, before I say a word or two in connection with the resolution I should like to refer to the announcement made by the Prime Minister before six o'clock and take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. member for Davenport and the hon. member for Richelieu-Vercheres on their elevation to the post of parliamentary assistant. I am sure I express the sentiments of all in the house when I say that the Prime Minister's choice was not only