

from that standpoint there is no excuse for hasty action on the bill.

There is before us at second reading stage a bill that is a rather complex and weighty document. I do not intend to go into detail with respect to particular items except to point out to the minister and the government that the enlarged powers to be given to the Canadian Grain Commission, which will be its new designation, should be carefully reviewed. The previous speaker criticized the reservations of the Canada Grains Council in this respect. But that is not the only representative body of the grain producers which has expressed reservations concerning the powers that are to be given under the revisions to the Canadian Grain Commission. Some of the leading publications representing the farmers of the province of Manitoba, for example, have expressed the same anxiety. The *Manitoba Co-operator*, a paper that followed closely the discussions that took place in committee and in Parliament with respect to Bill C-196, said as recently as last June 25:

It is equally apparent that if Bill C-196 is delayed until the next session of Parliament that the Conservative opposition will be charged with being obstructionists. The government will say that Canada's ability to compete in the world wheat market has been damaged by the delay caused by the opposition. That, of course, is patently false, since as we have said, the matter of protein grading could be dealt with promptly, and with the full blessing of the opposition, if so many other strings had not been attached to the bundle.

One of the strings that has been attached to the bundle in this impressively large bill is the new powers that will be given to the Canadian Grain Commission which is replacing the old Board of Grain Commissioners. We shall need to consider under the terms of the legislation the whole question of the transportation of grain to export markets. Apparently, the entire problem of box car allocation is to be dealt with in the bill before us. In other words, it would appear that the legislation will provide the legislative basis for the block system which is already operating on the Prairies on an experimental basis. It appears that the bill will empower the Canadian Grain Commission to become the authority in the matter of the transport of grains.

In the latter part of the 1950s and the early part of the 1960s, when grain exports increased at a tremendous rate under the then Conservative government and the problem of providing or allocating boxcars at the right place and at the right time in order to bring out the required quantities and grades of wheat that were urgently required or the export market grew enormously, it became necessary to appoint a transport controller. This ad hoc provision of course was quite inadequate to deal with the upsurge of grain sales in the last few years. There was some delay in appointing a transportation controller, the result being that we suffered some unfortunate tie-ups both at Thunder Bay and at the western ports. It appears that the placing of this authority in the Canadian Grain Commission, under this legislation, will be a step in the right direction in this regard. Again, since these matters are fundamental there should be no haste in coming to definitive conclusions about them until there has been an opportunity to hear from all the

representative groups engaged in the grains export industry.

One of the problems of our grain trade arises from its dependence upon the export market for its prosperity. The very fact that the export market is a fluctuating and difficult market to maintain is all the more reason for our having the best possible legislative framework for dealing with this matter. Fundamentally, Mr. Speaker, the bill is catching up on the years of neglect on the part of Canadian governments. The minister has made the point that there is a great and growing need for a new grading system of grain that will emphasize its protein content. Canada is one of the last major grain exporting countries to bring its legislation up-to-date in this regard. Australia and the United States have already provided the legislative procedures for this difficult problem.

In dealing with the problem of the protein content of wheat, we are merely dealing with a symptom of the over-all difficulties and not with a cure-all that will solve all the problems of the grain trade. For example, one of the major difficulties in the Canadian wheat and grain trade stems from our failure to upgrade the yields of wheat. This difficulty has arisen because of our failure to cope with improved technologies. There will be fundamental changes in the grain trade during the next few years because of the new varieties of grain that are being developed, particularly as a result of experiments that are going on in Mexico under the direction of Dr. Borlaug, who has been the director of the Ford Foundation research in that country for the past 20 years.

• (8:30 p.m.)

It is interesting to note that among the Nobel Peace Prize winners announced this year was the name of Dr. Borlaug for his breakthrough in dwarf wheats. This is the first time that an agronomist has been recognized by this award. It indicates the vital nature of work that has been going on in that country under the direction of that distinguished American who, incidentally, is strongly supported by Canadian researchers. One of the chief researchers for those programs is Dr. Frank Zillinsky, formerly with the Canadian Experimental Farm service. These are matters that have to be discussed when the legislation is before the committee. The more time and opportunity we have to grapple with all the complex phases of the industry, the more effective the new legislative framework will be.

Those of us who are concerned with the continuing problems of the grain trade agree that we should concentrate on the problems of selling grain as much as growing and distributing it. It has been demonstrated that the sales are there if the Wheat Board, on behalf of the government, carries out an aggressive sales program. There have been announcements regarding the sale of substantial amounts of wheat, for example, to mainland China amounting to approximately 98 million bushels. We are not sure about the price of the wheat that is involved. It is suspected that it is at the level of fire sale prices. If this is so, it will not solve the problem of the wheat grower. After two years of drastic decline in sales