

is 5,000 bushels an hour, twice as great as any facility we have for loading ships in Vancouver. They are also building a port which will be able to handle ships capable of carrying 100,000 tons of grain. If there are ships in the next few years capable of loading 100,000 tons of grain they will have to load out of Seattle. We could save 10 cents a bushel on the cost difference between moving freight to large ships as compared with the small ships we are using today, yet we have a Minister of Justice surrounding himself with one group of experts after another trying to save money at the expense of increasing farm and labour costs.

The same situation exists in the United States where they are building facilities at Seattle and Tacoma. If we get into another situation like that of 1969-70 we pretty well know which country will be left with grain. I am concerned about the minister's attitude. Every time he is asked a question pertaining to anything in the west, he says he is discussing it with farm organizations and will be talking it over with his experts, after which a decision will be forthcoming. I think the minister has forgotten what happened last October 30. We had an election under our democratic process. As a result, people like myself were elected, and I like to think I represent some of the farmers who do not belong to any organization. I am a member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. I have been a member for 25 years and I haul all my grain there. I am a member of the Palliser Wheat Growers' Association. I was elected by the farmers and producers of the Battleford-Kindersley constituency and I am here to represent them. The mere fact that some expert or organization suggests something to me does not cut much ice if I do not think it is right for the farmers in my area.

Was the Standing Committee on Agriculture named just for the sake of naming it? We should be studying a feed grain policy for Canada. It is no wonder this legislation does not have much success in the House. Decisions should be made by the committee, and these matters should not be brought into the House for decision until after a committee has studied them. We are very suspicious of the FAIR formula that the Canada Grains Council is promoting at the present time. This formula does nothing for the western producer and is not in any way related to the cost of production. It is simply that if a surplus of barley or feed grain should arise again on the prairies, the eastern feeders will be allowed to benefit from it. Of course, if we had had a government at all during 1969-70 there would not have been the bootlegging going on in respect of cheap feed in any event.

• (1640)

I should like to make a few remarks about the Canadian Wheat Board. It is strange that yesterday, in answer to some questions the Minister of Justice who is responsible for the Wheat Board said "that it was the Wheat Board's decision to raise quotas more rapidly than I would have liked in the fall and early winter that gave rise to the possibility of congestion." It is strange that when the Wheat Board does something correct, then the minister agrees with the decision but when there is an unpopular decision he implies that he cannot understand the board making such a decision.

### Supply

There was a period of two or three years when the quotas worked well. All of a sudden there was an election in the country and we had a quota of six or eight bushels. The elevator agents said that they could not handle that amount of grain for months and months. A person in the Wheat Board yesterday informed me that the policy is that the quotas are raised when there is 30 per cent space available in the blocks. I suggest that on September 1 last year there certainly was not 30 per cent space in any of the blocks, and yet the quotas were raised to six bushels. I suggest that the minister should get together with the Wheat Board because there would seem to be disagreement concerning when quotas should rise in the first place.

I think the Wheat Board is a wonderful thing. The other day the minister was quick to answer when someone asked about the Wheat Board selling grain to Eastern feeders at 10 cents below the world market price. He suggested the hon. member was against the Wheat Board. The Wheat Board is supposed to help the farmer. Someone is needed on the board who knows what is going on, rather than someone who does not know what the agenda is and cannot ask the proper questions. There is a need for someone on the Wheat Board who is elected by the farmers. In this way we could be assured that the board would operate in the way the farmers want it to operate. If this were the case, I would be in favour of the Wheat Board handling rapeseed. But that is not the case. The Wheat Board is hallowed ground. One cannot criticize it because then the members of the New Democratic Party and their friends jump up and say that those who criticize it are against it.

Then, there is the matter of the way in which boxcars are allocated. Yesterday the minister evaded a question on this topic. It seems to me the producer is the only one who should decide where the cars go. The grain is supposed to be obtained from the producer and sold for the greatest amount of money possible. That is not what happens. For the last three months of the year, boxcars are allocated to those elevators with less than 25 per cent vacant space. For the other months another formula is used. If it is a good formula for three months, I think it should also be a good formula for 12 months.

**The Chairman:** I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

**Mr. Danforth:** Mr. Chairman, when this parliament began we hoped we had entered a new era in respect of agriculture because we had promoted to the high office of the Minister of Agriculture of this country a member from a neighbouring riding to mine in southwestern Ontario. I supported this move because I felt that this hon. member coming from that area would have a real grasp of the problems of the farmers in that area and now would be in a position to do something about the situation. Having said that, I should like to say that we need more than just words to solve the problems in that area and indeed in all areas of eastern Canada and British Columbia. Words alone will not suffice. We would like to see a little more action from this government than we had from the preceding government and the succession of Ministers of Agriculture. Each minister had pet projects, pet theories and pet principles which he foisted on the agriculture