foreign governments, and domestic, foreign, or international relief or rehabilitation agencies, and to meet domestic requirements; (4) remove and dispose of surplus agricultural commodities; (5) increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities through development of new markets, marketing facilities, and uses; (6) export or cause to be exported, or aid in the development of foreign markets for agricultural commodities; and (7) carry out such other operations as congress may specifically authorize or provide for.

The charter of the commodity credit corporation of the United States is broad in its terms and the fact that it benefits the United States producers I am sure is unchallenged by any thinking United States citizen or any thinking Canadian. In this report of the president of the commodity credit corporation for 1950 is outlined the United States policy and formula in regard to the marketing and handling of many agricultural products. One agricultural product after another is mentioned. On reading this report one is impressed with the fact that the United States agricultural producer is getting a square deal while the Canadian agricultural producer is getting rock-bottom floor prices and is being forced to curtail production of many commodities.

In 1950 the United States producer of corn got a price that was 90 per cent of parity. In the case of cotton, the same 90 per cent of parity was guaranteed. Their parity prices are invariably high. In 1950 the wheat producer was guaranteed 90 per cent of parity or $1.95 per bushel. Today the commodity credit corporation guarantees the United States wheat producer 90 per cent of parity or $2.17 per bushel.

I ask how does the Canadian wheat producer fare in comparison? That is not all that the United States wheat producer gets. He gets the prevailing market price even though that price be 40 or 50 cents per bushel higher than the support price, as it is now. The Canadian farmer gets much less and is guaranteed much less. Here are some more guaranteed commodity prices:

	Per cent of parity
Butterfat	90
Milk	79
Barley	72
Beans	80
Cottonseed	90
Eggs	90
Oats	90
Rye	72

In other words, under the United States legislation the producer is guaranteed a high percentage of a reasonable parity price. I plead with the minister to include, in the bill that this resolution foreshadows, a clause which will guarantee the Canadian producer a high fixed percentage of a parity price. Unless there is such a formula in this bill I am sure it will be of little value to the Canadian agricultural producer. It will be of no more value than the floor prices which the minister and the government have set from time to time within the last few years. In almost every instance the floor price has been below the cost of production.

What I have said about the commodity credit corporation is not the whole picture. Not only does that organization guarantee the farmer a high percentage of parity; it has the right to grant large loans on surplus agricultural products. According to this publication, in 1950 the commodity credit corporation made loans of over $65 million on something over 33½ million bushels of wheat. In other words, in the United States there is an organization which is prepared to lend substantial sums of money to farmers at low interest rates on surplus wheat. The minister should make this bill a measure which will help the hard-pressed wheat producers of the prairie provinces.

This measure should be similar to the United States legislation so that the government will meet the requests of farm organizations and provincial governments that an advance payment of 75 per cent of the initial price be made on farm-stored grain. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) could administer an organization which would advance money on farm-stored grain because he has in his department a large staff which could be used to see that the granaries were properly constructed and the grain in good condition. I refer to the prairie farm assistance inspectors located throughout the three western provinces.

The government must meet this agricultural marketing situation in western Canada. It is not only the farmers who have been unable to market their grain who are suffering; the whole economy of Saskatchewan is threatened.

Mr. Fair: Of the west.

Mr. Argue: As my hon. friend in the Social Credit group reminds me, the economy of the west is threatened, because I understand Alberta is in as bad shape in that respect as Saskatchewan. Our storekeepers have thousands upon thousands of dollars on their books. The storekeepers in the small towns throughout the west are probably granting more credit than all the banks in the three prairie provinces. Unless the farmers are given an advance on farm-stored grain the small town merchant will be in dire peril, the farmer and his family will suffer, and the whole western economy will be in danger.

I should like the minister to discuss with his colleagues in the cabinet the possibility