

500,000 acres last year and are expected to make up some 7 per cent of the total spring wheat acreage on the Prairies this year. There is real concern among farmers that the superior quality of Canadian wheat may be placed in jeopardy through the increasing use of these varieties. We also know that the Minister has established a committee to find ways of legitimizing the use of these wheats which are not now licensed. Can he tell us his personal experience with these kinds of varieties? Have they been grown in his area or on his farm? What is the Minister's experience with them?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, if you want to hear my experience, I have had a permit book for 30 years. I believe the Hon. Member who asked the question is the only farmer in the two opposition Parties across the way, and I would certainly be happy to swap yarns with him about farming if he wishes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mayer:** Let me talk a little bit about what we have done. It is anticipated that acreage will go up this year. We announced a week ago Friday a system whereby we are not legitimizing these varieties. We are not encouraging people to grow them, and we are not discouraging them. We are simply acting as adults in recognizing that there is a potential problem.

If we continue to grow these unlicensed varieties, it can cause us to lose some of our reputation in the international market. None of us want to see that. We are not legitimizing their growing, we are simply recognizing that these varieties will be grown. We have sat down as adults and tried to use some common sense to develop a system that will avoid some of the problems to which the Hon. Member refers.

#### MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** I had asked the question quite specifically, Mr. Speaker, because there are some concerns among farmers in the grain industry that the Minister himself may have been growing such varieties.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Althouse:** If so, I thought it seemed unusual for him to have taken on this job since it generally falls within the purview of the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister assure us that he is operating at a full arm's length in this particular area, that he has not been involved in production of such grains, and that he is not leaving the impression in the farm community that he is finding a way to legitimize his own past practice?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I plead guilty as charged. I am in all kinds of conflict of interest. I am a farmer myself, and I am trying to act in the best interests of farmers.

#### Oral Questions

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** More!

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Minister have an answer to the question?

**Mr. Mayer:** If the Hon. Member is telling me that he does not want me to fight for as large a payment out of the Western Grain Stabilization Act as possible, and if he is telling me that he doesn't want me to get the payment out as quickly as possible because that is a conflict of interest, then that frankly surprises me.

Let me tell the Hon. Member that I have grown semi-dwarf at my place, one of them a licensed variety called fielder. It is grown all over the Prairies. It is licensed, and it is grown particularly in the irrigation areas of southern Alberta.

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[Translation]

#### CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

##### BANKRUPTCY ACT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead):** Mr. Speaker, consumers, small investors and small businessmen are delighted that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has started a thorough review of the Combines Investigation Act and the Bankruptcy Act.

Since the present Bankruptcy Act contains a number of provisions that are unfair to the consumer, small business people and small investors, I would like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether future bankruptcy legislation will contain specific measures to improve consumer protection.

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in the course of various consultations and conferences on the Bankruptcy Act, the Government does indeed intend to do a number of studies with a view to revamping the Bankruptcy Act and protecting small investors and consumers.

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[English]

#### CITIZENSHIP COURTS

##### APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE GIOVANNI ROCCA

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Secretary of State. In view of the fact that his Leader, the Prime Minister, promised in the election campaign that he was going to bring in "new dimensions of objectivity and fairness in making federal appointments", could the Minister tell us how this criterion applies to his appointments", could the Minister tell us how this criterion applies to his appointment as a citizenship court judge of