

of the old Assiniboia riding that I served that 40% of all the wheat grown in Canada was grown in that riding. There are questions as to what is happening. I was rather surprised about Dr. Arthur's comments, because they certainly do not indicate what I am hearing at the grass roots.

Another question relating to that is that food is not a priority on the global scale. Wheat is \$3 and some cents a bushel. Oil is now \$22 a barrel. It was up to \$40 in 1972. Wheat was \$2 a bushel, and oil was \$2 a barrel. I, as a food producer for a lifetime, ask along with my constituents: is food a priority? Are we giving a lot of lip service in terms of the so-called experts on environmental issues, or are we really concerned about the issue in terms of the global picture?

Someone has written a book called *Ending Hunger: An Idea whose Time has Come*. We hear more about hunger today, but there is less priority on food. We have moved to try to pack all of the population of Canada into four cities, and I as a farm boy am wondering is there any future for agriculture. Where are we?

**Dr. Arthur:** That is a ten-week course. First of all, I think food is a priority, but unfortunately it does not show up through pricing, it shows up through programming. A lot of countries have committed considerable dollars to the food sector, and because of that prices have stayed low. But they have shown a lot of commitment to the agriculture sector through their policies, and I think that will continue.

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As for what is going to happen in southern Saskatchewan, meteorologists in the Prairies tell me that you get these long periods of hot, dry weather every once in a while. The prairie environment is very variable and there is not really such a thing as average weather on the Prairies. You get long, hot, dry cycles and then you get cool, wet ones.

I am not sure that southern Saskatchewan's problem is due to the greenhouse effect. I think most people are telling us we cannot say for maybe another 20 years whether any regional problem is due to this. Some of the models are predicting that southern Saskatchewan will get more moisture under the greenhouse effect, so things could improve. It depends on which model you look at.

**Mr. Gustafson:** I do not want to isolate it only to southern Saskatchewan, because I have driven the—

**Dr. Arthur:** But they are the worst off.

**Mr. Gustafson:** —custom combine belt from Texas, North and South Dakota, Kansas and right through. This happens in the whole area where we produce the grain that the world eats. They used to tell me when I was a boy in school that we fed the world. I know some people challenge it in many ways.

**Dr. Arthur:** Most of it is desert already and always has been. They have just been irrigating it in the United States.