

Agriculture

gram is hopelessly out of date. That program is not a major achievement; it is a necessity in this day and age. Let the minister deal with the problems facing Canadians. Despite inflation that is admittedly world wide, it is the duty of the government to introduce production policies that will meet properly the needs of Canadians. That is the fact with which the government must contend. It is against this background that we must consider support programs for hogs so that farmers producing hogs will stay in business.

At the same time, the minister in charge of the Wheat Board has been disrupting and tearing apart one of the few stabilizing factors governing prairie agriculture and the western regions. While he has been in the process of tearing this apart he has been saying, "Wait until next year, when we will have a better program." Perhaps the minister should read the publication put out by some outfit in Regina which is entitled "Next Year Country".

While the minister was telling western farmers what a good deal he has in store for them, the Minister of Agriculture on October 17 was in South Mountain telling eastern farmers that they could look forward to cheap western feed grains because of the new policy the minister in charge of the Wheat Board was putting in place. The National Farmers Union Newsletter of October 22, 1973, says in part:

In the light of that blatant pitch to greed it was refreshing to hear an eastern farmer stand up and say that he wasn't interested in cheap grains at the expense of prairie farmers.

So there are the two sides to the coin. What are the facts? According to the Canadian Wheat Board announcement, as of October 22 the price of No. 3 Canada Western Red Spring Wheat for domestic feeders in Quebec, Eastern Canada and British Columbia was to be \$3.41½, f.o.b. Thunder Bay. According to the *Western Producer* of Thursday, October 18, the selling price of No. 3 CWRS, or Red Spring Wheat, as of October 12 by the Canadian Wheat Board, at Thunder Bay, and the IWA price as supplied by Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Country Elevator Division, was \$5.49½.

Mr. Lang: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, when I am through. I have only 20 minutes and I wish to continue my remarks.

Mr. Lang: Does the hon. member have the price for domestic wheat that day?

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I was quoting.

Mr. Lang: The domestic price was lower.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I was referring to figures that I assume must be known to the minister's own department. These prices for No. 3 CWRS are quoted in the *Star-Phoenix* of October 23. I was also quoting figures carried in the *Western Producer*. Those indicate the prices that are quoted by the Wheat Board when selling No. 3 CWRS wheat out of Thunder Bay.

Mr. Lang: Give us the Wheat Board's domestic price for that day.

[Mr. Gleave.]

Mr. Gleave: The minister can stand up later and say what he wishes. I am not trying to mislead the House, as he is suggesting. I am presenting facts to the House. I am saying that the Canadian Wheat Board, under this new policy, is being required to supply 3 CWRS wheat at the lower price I have quoted at domestic points in Canada. The price available of course, is the price less the cost of moving the wheat to Thunder Bay. If you are in the prairie region the price available must take into account the cost of moving wheat to Thunder Bay. At any rate, the export price quoted is the price which the Canadian Wheat Board will receive for that grade of wheat delivered to our customers who buy it for export at Thunder Bay.

I really do not intend to labour the point, because the over-all approach of the policy is more important than the particular price. In place of a clumsy and unworkable price system which is difficult to administer and under which it has taken many weeks before a final price was arrived at, we need a marketing system that is workable and efficient and a price system under which prices can be quoted from day to day, without any question or doubt. We had such a system before the minister attacked it. The Wheat Board could deliver grain without question to those who needed it. It was in a position to guarantee supplies to those who wanted them. There is a real danger it will not be able to do this in the foreseeable future if substantial supplies are bought by the Agricultural Products Board or other purchasers outside the Wheat Board. If those other purchasers choose to buy substantial quantities, the Wheat Board will run the risk of not having supplies readily available. These possibilities concern me even more than the present inequity of pricing.

● (1600)

I could quote more figures. The minister will undoubtedly quote more. The minister's price systems multiply like rabbits. He has all kinds and all colours. You can take your pick. There used to be only one pricing system but the minister has many.

In answer to a question yesterday about quota system problems, the minister said he knew there were problems but once he got the grain rolling he would straighten them out. Unfortunately the block system which was developed over a period of years and was very efficient is now not working well. The minister said this in his statement yesterday.

On the north side of my constituency, the grain elevators are congested. They have been congested throughout this crop year. One quarter of the crop year is now over, and some farmers have not been able to deliver their grain. This is the kind of grain policy we have with this government.

There is one grain policy for western Canada and one for eastern Canada, the area east of the Ottawa river. No wonder the Minister of Agriculture is happy to talk to the Ontario farmers. They are one of the groups which will get the gravy. The minister says his feed policy will bring equity to all farmers in Canada. However, it will have very little to do with one of the two largest producing areas in this country, namely central, south-western and southern Ontario which produces corn, one of the major feed grains. Nothing is being done to equalize the price of