

Before leaving this aspect of the matter I want to say that 70 cents is no more satisfactory than 60 cents was from the point of view of giving the farmers of western Canada sufficient to enable them to grow wheat, maintain a decent standard of living, and pay even part of their debt.

Mr. EULER: Then it may as well be put back.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I have no hesitation in saying that I shall oppose Bill No. 63.

I turn now to the so-called bonus acreage scheme, the third plank in the government wheat policy. Let it be understood at the outset not only that the members of this group are in favour of crop insurance, but that we have advocated a crop insurance scheme ever since we came to this house. Furthermore we do recognize some of the inequalities inherent in the fixed price for wheat, although I think it can be shown that the inequalities in the bonus acreage scheme will far outweigh any inequalities that can be found in the present guaranteed minimum price. If the acreage bonus scheme as outlined in bill 82 were in addition to a wheat board, with a guaranteed minimum price of 80 cents, I would have no hesitation in supporting it. But, Mr. Speaker, when the acreage bonus scheme is merely a sugar-coating to persuade western Canada to swallow a very bitter pill, which is nothing more or less than the sabotaging of the wheat board and the betrayal of western interests, then I say it behooves every member from western Canada who is interested in the conservation of western agriculture to rise here and oppose this legislation.

I should like to touch on one or two aspects of the acreage bonus scheme which we may be prone to overlook in a hasty reading of the bill. I shall enumerate them in order to cover them quickly.

1. The acreage bonus scheme is not an insurance scheme. Under an insurance scheme the farmer would pay premiums based upon the crop loss risk in the district. Furthermore under an insurance scheme a farmer would be compensated for crop failure irrespective of the average yield of his district, provided he could satisfy the authorities that he had properly seeded his land and could show that he had sustained a crop loss.

2. The acreage bonus scheme is not a permanent policy. In section 3, subsection 1, it is provided that the act shall apply only

in an emergency year; and in section 3, subsection 3, the crop year 1939 is defined to be an emergency year. It will be noted that there is no provision for the operation of this act beyond this crop year, and that it will operate only if the price is below 80 cents at Fort William.

Mr. GARDINER: There is provision for it to operate beyond this year.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Only when the price is below 80 cents.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, only this year is declared an emergency year.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I understand that it will operate this year irrespective of price.

3. Under the national emergency scheme contained in the bill no bonus is payable if the market price for wheat is 80 cents at Fort William; and the crop failure assistance clause will be applicable to the farmers only if the yield is over four bushels to the acre. Furthermore, only half the bonus will be paid if the market price is between 70 and 80 cents at Fort William when the yield is between eight and twelve bushels to the acre.

Mr. GARDINER: Just in that one class.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Yes.

4. Under this scheme no bonus is payable if the market price is 80 cents at Fort William and the yield five bushels to the acre, unless there is an area of not less than 135 townships in any province in the spring wheat area which the minister declares to be a crop failure area.

5. Even when the market price is less than 80 cents, no bonus is payable unless the average yield of wheat in the township in which the farmer resides is found by the Minister of Agriculture to be twelve bushels to the acre or less. Only if the minister finds the yield to be twelve bushels or less and the price 80 cents or less does the bonus become effective, on the basis of \$1 per acre when the yield is from eight to twelve bushels to the acre, \$1.50 when the yield is from five to eight bushels, and \$2 when the yield in the township is four bushels or less.

6. The maximum on which the bonus will be paid, even if all other conditions are fulfilled, is 200 acres, and then only when the farmer has 400 acres in cultivation.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that the levy of one per cent from those farmers who have crops, at low prices, will have to be paid to help