

*Government Orders*

sions, we would be able to alleviate a lot of these problems that arise from time to time.

I also think that the government was wrong, when it had the meeting in Prince Albert, that it did not involve the key players. It is easy for a couple of groups to get together and decide: "We will divide up that 50 per cent of the premium. You take half and I will take half and everything is fine." But I look across this country and see the hardships that those farmers are having this year trying not only to cash flow their crops, whether it is in western Canada or Ontario, be it potato producers or corn producers or wheat producers. They simply do not cash flow and they are being turned down by their banks for their input needs.

Surely if there was ever a need for an advisory committee to look at this and to see how we are going to cover these people if they can get their crops in somehow, it is now. If they do not have the financing from the banks, where are they going to get the money to pay for these premiums?

Witness after witness appeared before the legislative committee that was dealing with this bill. Time after time after time we heard the same thing. They were all requesting a three-way split. But obviously the government did not see fit to go that way because it cut a deal where the farmers and the producers were not involved. That must never be allowed to happen again.

It is for this reason that I strongly support the amendment put forward by the hon. member for Algoma who put a lot of thought into this amendment. This is an amendment that will make sure that the minister has that authority to go ahead and set up a committee. I think he would be sadly remiss if he did not do that.

There are a lot of improvements in this crop insurance bill. Certainly I agreed with the amendment put forward by the minister at the start of the debate today. It helps to sweeten up the bill by including honey in it, but there are a lot of other things that should be improved.

• (1700)

My colleague already pointed out that with the added cost of the initial coverage, in many instances it is going to almost double the cost of premiums. Many of those farmers are simply not going to be able to afford that

added cost when they have to pay 50 per cent of the premiums.

It is a good plan but it has to be improved. Those improvements can only be brought about by the direct involvement of the producers themselves through their advisory committees and in consultation with each other and the provinces.

I suggest that there is another area here where that advisory committee would play a very important role. That is to bring about a better understanding between the provinces of the individual conditions which exist, whether it is in western Canada, Ontario, central Canada, Quebec, or in Atlantic Canada where the conditions are entirely different, and different crops are covered. It would bring about a better understanding between the producers of Canada and be able to make this legislation work far more effectively.

Above all, we have to make sure that the consultative process is adhered to before we have any more major changes in this legislation that affect the cost to the producer and that we do not have any more carving up of the premiums between the federal government and the provinces without that full consultation on the process that is suggested in this amendment by my colleague for Algoma.

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out the thought that was given to motion No. 10. I point out to the minister again that as it has been stated, it is the word "may" that is in there.

As the minister has pointed out to us many times, and I recognize, this is an enabling piece of legislation. If this government could see fit, and I trust that it will, to put this amendment in the bill, what it says to me, and I think I understand correctly, is that if the provinces agree it gives the minister the opportunity to appoint this type of committee.

This type of committee can do many things. We address what it can do in the amendment. We address the make-up of the committee, that it be made up of those who administrate it, those who purchase the program, in other words those who benefit, and those that look after the program in total.

The purpose of any farm program or any program such as this is as a management tool for the food producers in Canada. What this type of committee can do from time