

I might say in passing that we are fortunate in having at the University of Manitoba the most powerful computer in Canada, met only by one other in the service of the federal government itself in Ottawa. So, we would be in a position to conduct this type of service if it were started.

In the area of rapeseed marketing, Mr. Chairman, we believe that great new fields are open for western Canadian agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rapp is quite happy. Everybody has mentioned this.

Mr. MOLGAT: You have had enough of it? Perhaps I should refer you to pages 6, 7 and 8 of my brief, Mr. Chairman. Let me simply say that the production of rapeseed in the past year in the west was 20 million bushel. The production of—how much?

Mr. RAPP: Twenty-two million.

Mr. MOLGAT: Twenty-two million? I am sorry; I am 10 per cent out.

The CHAIRMAN: He is an expert on rapeseed.

Mr. MOLGAT: The production of wheat was 844 million bushels. Here is an opportunity, we believe, for diversification. It is true that right now we are selling our wheat. From the representations made today by the wheat board we can look forward to constantly selling it. But we think it would still be of advantage to Canadian agriculture to have some variety. We think here the federal government has a specific job to do. I have outlined in my brief specific areas where we would like to see action.

We suggest research into the types of rapeseed to make them more proper for our climate and bring them up to our needs; research in the meal and then, from the other side, marketing research in so far as the oil is concerned. At the moment very little of the oil is consumed in Canada. There is a little of it ground here in Manitoba and yet, if you go into any of our retail stores, you will find virtually no rapeseed oil for sale. Canadians are not using it. No major producers that I know of at the moment are in the rapeseed oil business. Yet, we are exporting it to other nations. I am told that research has found the oil to be more suitable for many purposes—for frying, and so on. All this is to be researched, marketed and explained to the Canadian people. Here is an opportunity to assist our agriculture in general.

Those, Mr. Chairman, are the specific comments we had to make. I want to thank you very much at this late time of day, late in the week, for the attention of your Committee. I will be happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Molgat. It is a good, short brief. Your narration was fairly complete. I have two members who have signalled they want to ask questions, Mr. Clermont and Mr. Côté.

(Translation)

Mr. CLERMONT: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Molgat, in your brief you said that the farmer must continue to benefit from Canada's economic expansion, and that the farmer is going to be an important factor in continued economic expansion. No doubt when you were speaking of farmers, you were thinking of the eastern as well as the western farmers. I trust you are thinking of—