

*Wheat Acreage Reduction*

We do not now have, nor will we have in the foreseeable future a large enough number of people to consume all our agricultural products. It is one of our prime responsibilities to immediately develop agencies which will sell some of the produce we have and at the same time dispose of our surplus to those less fortunate. This should be done in a manner that will provide a return to the farmer and maintain the usefulness of our land.

If the minister really believes he can reorganize agriculture in western Canada and can decide the quotas, he should say so. If anyone is interested, they should read the answer given to me this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). He indicated the quotas will really be decided in 1971-72 and that the quota system in western Canada will be considerably different from that of today.

● (1:30 a.m.)

I say to the minister: If you really want to reorganize this business, call a plebiscite, call in the farmers, hold meetings and ask permission. Some of them might be happy to get out of agriculture. There are areas in which rapeseed can be grown. But let us not have everyone producing rapeseed this year or we shall be overwhelmed with rapeseed. Give farmers an opportunity to get out of agriculture if they wish, but let us not use the whip. We did this as far as dairying was concerned and now we are witnessing grave repercussions. We eliminated the small family unit in eastern Canada; we increased production there, particularly in Quebec, and we now find that the farmers in eastern Quebec are in dire straights. Their units of production are economic; they have increased the size of their

holdings. Nevertheless, they find themselves in much more trouble than was the small farmer with three or four cows. The small farmer knew he would never become rich, but he could manage. These other people will lose their farms in many cases because they are head over heels in debt.

As far as western farmers are concerned, the \$100 million will not go to them at all. It will not go into the rural economy; it will not go into the western economy. Any money which flows into the western economy will come from the proceeds of wheat which is delivered to the elevators from the farms. Someone will wake up two years from now and find that even if there were sales to be made, there would be nothing to sell. The minister would be unfair if he did not hold some kind of seminary with the farmers of the west and tell them what his proposal is—how he sees the situation five years from now. They would then know what the whip is and what the carrot is and would be able to reach a decision with full knowledge of the facts, something they do not have today.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Would the hon. member answer a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have to bring to the attention of the House that the time allotted to the hon. member has expired. I am satisfied, pursuant to section 13 of Standing Order 26, that the debate has been concluded, and I therefore declare the motion carried. The House stands adjourned until two o'clock later this day.

At 1.35 a.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

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