

Canadian Wheat Board Act

jurisdiction of the Wheat Board because then the absolute control will be in the hands of that board, which ultimately means in the hands of the government.

I have before me the report of the Canadian Grain Marketing Committee submitted to the Canadian Wheat Board, and on page 6 I read that in the year 1969-70 Canada's percentage of the world wheat carry-over was 39.4. At the same time, of the world wheat acreage in production, Canada has only 4.9 per cent—5 per cent of the total production acreage in the world and 40 per cent of the surplus. And wheat was handled by the Wheat Board, if you please! Do hon. members want a similar situation to occur with regard to rapeseed? As a producer I believe in pooling many things but at the moment I do not believe that rapeseed should be included. Now that somebody else has done the work the Wheat Board wants to move in. This is typical socialist philosophy, as I know very well having lived under it. They do not want a man to think for himself nor do they want the individual to make a profit. Personally, I do not mind anybody making a profit, though I may mind the margin of profit. I am more concerned about the man who is losing money because we know that profit is a great incentive.

• (4:40 p.m.)

The rapeseed industry is in competition with peanut oil, soya bean oil, coconut oil—you name it and we have it, but we have managed to sell our rapeseed. Now, the Wheat Board says it has the answer. It did not have the answer when we had a surplus of wheat. And what is the situation in regard to feed grain? In a newspaper report of a paper written by Dr. George R. Winter of the University of British Columbia there is the following statement:

Canada's share of world exports has fallen from nearly 30 per cent in 1963 (and a huge 40 per cent in war years) to less than 20 per cent in the last two years. On the other hand, Dr. Winter said, "We have only 3 per cent of world feed grain exports."

Only 3 per cent of world feed grain exports, Mr. Speaker! What about barley and oats? When we had a surplus of barley, farmers were moving it across provincial borders and doing everything to save themselves because the Wheat Board was not moving it. Then, there was a corn blight in the United States, although the Wheat Board did not realize this, and suddenly there was a windfall. However, the board sold barley at reduced prices. Before the Board caught on to what had happened they had committed themselves so far ahead at these reduced prices that the minister has had to up the ante by ten cents this year in order to encourage the delivery of barley. He established it low enough at first to protect himself, but now he has to deliver and he cannot do it because the farmers will not deliver at the reduced price. The minister has had to increase the price. That is the way the Wheat Board manipulates things; they up the ante and the elevators do not spot the cars. How do you get your barley into the elevator? There is no way you can operate a system that is obviously inefficient.

Mr. Lang: The cars are coming.

[Mr. Korchinski.]

Mr. Korchinski: Drag in some more dead cats if you like.

I believe that thorough discussion of this matter can only be obtained through the holding of a plebiscite. Let the trade explain its position if these profits are being made. However, at the same time we have to explain why we want rapeseed excluded. The farmers will be the judges. If the minister has any dilemma about who should participate in the plebiscite I suggest that any producer who has interested himself in the production of rapeseed over the last 10 or 20 years should be given a vote. I do not say every permit holder should be given a vote because if a permit holder were interested in producing he had the opportunity to do so over the years. Of course, he may be interested in the future, but then I may be interested in something else in the future. If you have a plebiscite of egg producers you only give a vote to those producers, not to the men who grow the grain that feeds the chickens that lay the eggs. The man who produces the particular grain which is the subject of the plebiscite should be the judge because he knows the situation.

The argument has been made that you need a pooling system because of the necessity to make long term sales. I reject that argument, Mr. Speaker, because we have a pooling arrangement in other commodities and it has not necessarily given us long term sales. In cases where it has, we have probably found out that some of the terms written in were not to our advantage. I can remember the U.K. agreement, a pooling arrangement which cost us \$600 million. Western Canada was reeling for ten years after that and it was not just the farmer who lost, it was the whole western economy. When the rest of the world was making money we lost \$600 million.

This question of averaging is an interesting one. If sales in the fall are low, then the quota itself establishes the price. You can only sell so much. For example, last fall we had some sales at \$2.39 a bushel and then when the quota came up in January, we had some sales at \$2.68 a bushel. There was a pooling effect, therefore, but there was no quota. The farmer is, therefore, necessarily restricted by the quota. The quota itself is a mechanism that will, in effect, balance off the average. That is what the Canadian Wheat Board is all about; it is a pooling arrangement, an averaging of prices through the mechanism of the quota.

We are told the pooling effect is needed for long term sales. But what is to stop an agency of the government or the Wheat Board from going into the world to find a market? They could ask potential buyers, "How much do you need and how much will you pay?" Then, they could come back to the producer and say, "We have a potential sale for X number of bushels, will you produce it at such and such a price?" The farmer could then be the judge and enter into a contract or take his chance elsewhere. This could be done right now. If they have their super-salesmen sitting waiting for the starting bell then I say to them, go to it. We have situations at the moment where, because of their yearly requirements, some processors guarantee the farmer a certain price, then work out the