

Prairie Grain Stabilization Act

rary Wheat Reserves Act, the farmers in this case would receive cheques directly. There is no more direct way of sending money.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Richardson: So, I was citing the facts.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Richardson: I am about to answer some questions right now, then I will receive others. In the crop year 1970-71, the Wheat Board would have been paid, under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act, \$62,100,000. Transitional payments to be made directly to some 180,000 farmers under the stabilization bill would amount for the same period, as you know, to \$100 million. In the second crop year, 1971-72, the year in which we are now, payments under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act would amount to approximately \$31 million.

Mr. Woolliams: That comes to about \$100 million. I wish the minister would explain that.

Mr. Richardson: Wait; we are taking this crop year by crop year.

Mr. Woolliams: Do it altogether.

Mr. Richardson: I am doing it this way in order that we may get the picture straight.

An hon. Member: There speaks the wheat germ kid.

Mr. Richardson: Although the crop year is just over two months old, this figure can readily be calculated because it is based on the amount of wheat in storage on August 1. Under the proposals of this stabilization bill, it is estimated that the federal government's contribution, based upon 4 per cent of 90 per cent of total receipts, would be at least \$35 million and could be higher.

An hon. Member: The farmers will not see it that way.

Mr. Richardson: In the next crop year, in the crop year after this one, it is estimated that temporary wheat reserves payments to the Wheat Board would be below \$20 million.

An hon. Member: Whose crystal ball is the minister using?

Mr. Richardson: These are Wheat Board figures. Federal government payments under this stabilization bill proposal—

An hon. Member: This is the first time I have heard the minister defending the Wheat Board.

Mr. Richardson: —would continue at \$35 million or more.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Richardson: This means, Mr. Speaker—

[Mr. Richardson.]

Mr. Horner: The minister is not worried about the poor.

Mr. Richardson: This means, and we are getting the facts here,—

Mr. Paproski: The minister is filibustering.

Mr. Richardson: —that under the stabilization bill there would be federal government payments of more than \$170 million—

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Gleave: I wonder if the minister would permit a question, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Hon. members may only ask questions if they have the minister's permission. He has the floor. Is the minister willing to permit the hon. member to ask a question?

Mr. Richardson: I have made it clear that what I am saying here is designed to answer questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: Everybody pay attention.

Mr. Richardson: Then, we will get down to facts.

Mr. Gleave: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to point out that some of the facts the minister has presented to this House are not correct. They are just not correct.

• (3:10 p.m.)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member knows, of course, that he is just making an argument. He should state his point of order when he seeks the floor for this purpose. The Chair hopes that hon. members on both sides will try to at least help the Chair hear what the minister is saying. I am sure this will be to the benefit of everyone.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just at the point of saying that with this figure for the three crop years, which I have broken down and used to make a comparison between the stabilization bill and the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act—there will be federal government payments of more than \$170 million—

Mr. Korchinski: What about the losses?

Mr. Richardson: —just a moment—in three years, compared to \$113 million under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. As I have said, this means there would be \$67 million more put into the western economy and into the hands of the western farmers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the minister at least do his subtracting correctly. It is only \$57 million, even on the minister's own figures.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.