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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

February 23, 2007

Letter to the Editor: Dirty tricks plentiful in anti-CWB campaign

Dear Editor,

The Minister responsible for Dirty Tricks against the Canadian Wheat Board has truly performed well below everyone's expectations. He has moved from election tampering in the CWB Director elections, to firing a top-notch CEO without cause, to a new round of deceit.

The Minister (and other Harper MPs) have recently been using a quote from Algeria against the CWB. The problem is that the quote is a fabrication. The government knows it is a fabrication but continues to use it without apology.

Besides the use of the fabricated quote, the Minister's latest dirty tricks include conducting a barley plebiscite wherein the ballots can be traced back to the voter's name and address. The Minister can call this a secret ballot as many times as he likes, but it doesn't make it so. No 4-H club in the country would conduct a vote in this manner, but the Minister is pleased. (Is this a precursor for changes to Canada's Elections Act?)

Another dirty trick has turned up with the posting of a new anti-CWB website with a name almost identical to the "official" KPMG plebiscite website. According to news reports, the anti-CWB website was registered more than a week before the KPMG website, in which case the sponsors would have needed advance information from the government or the government's agent, KPMG.

Also, the anti-CWB website in question was registered in the United States in order to keep the sponsor's name secret. This means that it could be sponsored by anyone – perhaps even the Minister himself, or any foreign company or group committed to destroying the CWB. What exactly are they trying to hide with the website laundering scheme?

The barley plebiscite has been nothing more than a vehicle for Harper's government and its corporate friends to attack, smear, and slander the CWB while the gag order is in place. All fair-minded Canadians (Wheat Board supporters or not) will be embarrassed by the government's actions.

I am pleased that CWB supporters don't have to hide behind fabricated quotes, loaded questions, secret websites and traceable ballots.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Stewart Wells
President, National Farmers Union
Swift Current, SK
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