

list to grain companies and friends for a government-funded July meeting in Saskatoon.

Nor is it reasonable to describe as transparent the high-security press conference following the meeting, which excluded the public and farm organizations.

But probably the least transparent tactic was a phone call from agriculture minister Chuck Strahl's office to a large-circulation farm newspaper in the wake of the July meeting.

The phone call was a thinly disguised pressure tactic aimed at creating problems for a freelance columnist who had the fortitude to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with farmers in support of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Finally, Anderson reveals his reluctance to engage in truly transparent dialogue with farmers

by refusing to accept an invitation from the National Farmers Union to a public debate on the CWB.

We issued the challenge last June, and Anderson has yet to acknowledge the invitation. The challenge still stands, by the way.

The lenses through which Anderson is looking are not transparent. In fact, he is so close-minded on this issue that it is fair to characterize his eyewear as ideological blinders. He and his cohorts will say and do anything to hasten the demise of the CWB.

It's time for farmers to say no to the loss of an effective CWB, and no to the loss of \$800 million annually from the western farm economy.

— Stewart Wells,
President,
National Farmers Union,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Transparency

To the Editor:

In his most recent public attack on the Canadian Wheat Board, David Anderson, MP for Cypress Hills-Grasslands, tries to turn reality on its head.

While he claims the federal government is consulting with farm groups in a "transparent manner" over the issue of grain marketing, the facts reveal a different story.

There is nothing transparent about Anderson's secret invitation