

towns and I will go with you. You name the rules, and you name the place of meeting and invite all your friends to it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I remind the hon. member that although his remarks are interesting, he should confine himself to the subject under discussion, namely, Bill C-175.

**Mr. Benjamin:** I appreciate your reminder, Mr. Speaker. I would point out that the Canada Grain Act has to do with boxcars, with selling grain, with grades of grain and with the amount of money that farmers get. Since the leading speaker for the official opposition spent most of the time dealing with proposals of the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt (Mr. Lang) this afternoon, it seems to me that the debate is fairly wide open. In spite of that, I shall adhere to your admonition.

I say to hon. members of the official opposition, "If you really mean what you say, you will support this bill on second reading. If you really mean that farmers should have the right to deliver their grain to the elevators of their choice, you will make sure that that provision remains in the bill when it becomes law. You will also make sure that the Minister of Agriculture enforces this law, because when he does it will mean that the National Grain Company, the Pioneer Grain Company and the Federal Grain Company will be out of business"—and I suspect he will not hold still for that. The hon. member for Medicine Hat will not hold still for that, because if he does the Canada Grain Council will be out of the window. All his friends who sit on the Canada Grain Council, these experts who would not know a quarter section from their backsides, will quit. These are the people he needed to reinforce him in the elimination of rural Canada, so he has to have the Canada Grain Council. As a result, we cannot do anything but help implement this law to make sure that the farmers get boxcars to the elevators of their choice.

The hon. member for Medicine Hat, the hon. member for Assiniboia, the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) and the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) cannot have it both ways: they cannot be half pregnant, Mr. Speaker, because there is no such thing. I hope that all hon. members in the opposition will vote for this bill on second reading. Then we will do everything we can to ensure that the hon. member for Medicine Hat, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt and the hon. member for Assiniboia answer our questions—and it will be fun finding out what their answers are. The hon. member for Assiniboia, while he might be doing a great job of reading everything he has said in this House since he came here, will have to answer our questions. I hope every member now will vote for second reading, and let us call these dinosaurs' bluff.

• (9:20 p.m.)

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I came into the House in a quiet and peaceful mood prepared to let bygones be bygones and have this legislation passed,

### *Canada Grain Bill*

but I was inspired by the very fiery speech just made by the hon. member who sits to my left—to my far left, you might say.

**An hon. Member: Right.**

**Mr. Baldwin:** An hon. member says I am right, that he is to my left. He is to my left, but I am not too far to his right. Mr. Speaker, before we leave the bill to the tender mercies of the minister who is going to deal with it in its final stages, I want to say that we are in favour of many of the proposals made in the bill.

I see the minister taking notes. No matter what notes he takes, he will not be able to contradict the truthfulness of my statement because this is on the record. We in the official opposition suggested last session to the government that what it should do, because of the serious situation that then prevailed with regard to the sale of certain grains, was to take the old legislation and provide, by a very simple amendment, for protein grading. That matter could have been dealt with and disposed of, so far as this party was concerned, in one half hour. One speaker was all we needed, and we would have consented to an arrangement of that kind. The government would have had what it asked for, and what I think the country has wanted for a long time, that is, a change in the regulations with respect to this type of grading. But the government did not want that. Members of the government wanted everything; they were not prepared to compromise. As a result, we have had to wait, unfortunately, for this period of time for the change to be brought about. The minister may say what he wants to when I have sat down, but the record will bear out that I am correct.

When my hon. friend to my left speaks as he has, I point out that one of the things we object to in this bill is the extent to which it places in the hands of the government a great extension of powers. We are afraid of the government, Mr. Speaker. We are afraid of its abuses of the past and those it will be guilty of in the future in respect of powers which this Parliament grants to it. It is all very well for my good friends in the NDP to accept this situation. They are a party which predicates their position on the increasing of bureaucracy. The only way a Socialist party can survive is by having the bureaucracy extended, with powers granted to operate by Order in Council and short-circuit the powers of this House. We do not believe in this. We believe the people of Canada elected us to come here to deliberate and to make the decisions, and not to pass this power over to any government, particularly not to this government.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Baldwin:** Anybody who has seen the government operating in the last three weeks will see that this is not the kind of government that should be vested with the powers that it is asking for now.