

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I believe this would only result in administrative red tape, and greatly narrow the scope of this clause. I assured the house that we mean to have representatives of agricultural organizations, and I cannot see why we should further limit the qualifications required of committee members.

Mr. Chairman, I know the hon. member for Mégantic means well, but I fear very much that he is asking for administrative limitations which would make it very difficult for us to form the advisory committee.

[English]

Mr. Fairweather: I share the minister's view. Not only would we be creating administrative complications but we would obviously be restricting the usefulness of the committee. The minister has given an undertaking that the committee will include representatives of farm groups. Of course they will have a financial interest. That is obvious. I hope the committee will not support the amendment of the hon. member for Mégantic. I should like to think there will be room on the advisory committee for knowledgeable people, practical people, as well as for those who have an academic interest in this subject.

Mr. Kindt: There is no doubt that the mover of this amendment has good intentions in mind but on reflection I think he would agree that this proposal would do far more harm than good. From the way in which it is worded, those with a financial interest whether directly or indirectly—

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): No. Direct.

Mr. Kindt: I am one who is proud to be a farmer and as such I have a financial interest myself. I do not hope to be a member of this committee but there are thousands of others, 6,000 in my own riding, whose experience might well be valuable. Yet this would not be possible if the proposed amendment were adopted in its present form.

There is another point. The minister has told us that an effort will be made to represent the views of a cross-section of the various interests concerned. This seems to be only common sense. If we ask for advice on these important matters we want to hear someone talking straight from the shoulder and from experience. This would not be possible if we observed the qualifications laid down in the amendment. Provided it is an interest at some distance, I think we shall be obliged to

seek the services of people who have a financial interest. I am sure the information provided by such a committee would prove far more helpful than would otherwise be the case.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): I quite understand the hon. member's point of view, as I drafted the amendment rather rapidly. However, its purport seems to have been missed. I do not want to restrict the farmer in any way. What I wanted to eliminate was anyone who would have a conflict of interest. I wish to restrict people who are strictly in the brokerage or transportation business. They are not really interested in farmers; they are only interested in the extra dollars they can earn.

However, the minister has given the assurance that he will keep a close eye on this and that farmers' associations will supply names of nominees for the advisory committee. On his undertaking to do that, I wish to withdraw my amendment and reserve the right to bring the matter up once again if things do not work out in accordance with the minister's intention.

[Translation]

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rinfret): The hon. member for Mégantic (Mr. Langlois) is asking for the withdrawal of the amendment now before the committee. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent for the withdrawal thereof?

[English]

Has the hon. member for Mégantic unanimous consent to withdraw his amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Langlois, Mégantic) withdrawn.

The Chairman: Shall clause 15 as amended carry?

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to have heard the discussion that has taken place because some time ago we who served on the agricultural committee were impressed with the manipulation and manoeuvring of some people in the province from which the hon. member for Mégantic comes. There is some merit in considering things that have happened in the past and devising ways and means of eliminating them in the future.

One thing which has not been mentioned much is the relationship between the Canadian Wheat Board, which is the sales