

Canada Grain Act

The contrast is that they are prepared to act in the most uncivil, intolerant, and insensitive way to other people, but in their own case are padding their own nest and providing for their own protection.

This is the worst kind of patronage we have seen in this House for many a year. The same thing is happening with Bill C-55. They are going to fire all the members of the boards through that Bill without severance and put their own Members in an entrenched, guaranteed, long-term pay period.

The Canadian people must understand this. Every single newspaper in the Province of Manitoba will have a copy of these remarks. There will not be a person in that province who will not know exactly what the Tories are up to. This is a death rattle. They are trying to take care of their own before they all go to their grave.

People should understand how the Government is abusing its power by trampling on the rights of the commissions and independent agencies of the country. That is exactly what it is doing. It is totally perverting and distorting the purpose of these commissions. They do not mind destroying other people's lives as long as they can protect their own friends.

● (1430)

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I just have one point of order. What a hypocrite!

Mr. Axworthy: You have no conscience and integrity. Try to defend this in your riding.

Mr. McDermid: The sorest loser in Canada.

Mr. Foster: A point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I recognize the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), I would hope the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) would withdraw his remark.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that that was unparliamentary. Are you ruling that it is unparliamentary?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Yes.

Mr. Redway: Well, I certainly would not want to say anything that is unparliamentary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in the interests of getting this Bill to committee where it can be addressed seriously and in the presence of the expert witnesses it deserves, I will resist responding in kind to some of the comments that have been made, even though I must confess I am emotionally inclined to do so.

I want to make two or three points. First, in order to attract quality people to important regulatory positions—the Hon. Member laughs—to have some continuity in this regulatory body as we have in most other governmental regulatory bodies,

it is exceedingly important that those individuals have an idea of the timeframe in which they must operate.

According to my information, there was a ten-year term until 1971 when it was amended, for whatever reason, by our friends opposite. The rationale for that can be discussed in committee. That is not the point to be made today.

The amendments in the Bill are important to the industry. These are primarily amendments that have been suggested by the industry. As suggested by the Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo), the Grain Commission is exceedingly important in terms of guaranteeing a quality product.

Quite frankly, if Hon. Members present wish at any time to question the competence or appropriateness of any appointment to positions such as this, they have the capacity to do so. If they see someone being appointed now or in the future who they do not think is appropriate or qualified, they can pursue that in the appropriate manner.

I suggest that the people who are part of the grain Commission now are well qualified. The people suggested and criticized by Members present, in my opinion, would also be well qualified for that responsibility. However, that has nothing to do with me or with the matter at hand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

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The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have received written notice from the Hon. Member for York—Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan) that he is unable to move his motion for second reading of Bill C-292 according to the order of precedence of debate during the hour provided for Private Members' Business.

A Bill which has been designated votable by the Standing Committee on Private Members' Business is now subject to an exchange in positions pursuant to Standing Order 39. Therefore, I am simply directing the Table Officers to drop that item of business to the bottom of the order of precedence.

It being 2.35 p.m., the House will now proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.