

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

and the member that we are getting away from the amendment under discussion. When the hon. member has answered the minister, the Chair requests that he confine his remarks to the amendment under debate.

Mr. Bigg: I am delighted that the minister in charge of the Wheat Board is taking his job seriously.

Mr. Horner: Only momentarily.

Mr. Bigg: I assure the minister that I have followed the sale of wheat for nearly 60 years. I am not casting any political aspersions. I tried to make it abundantly clear that sales of wheat are a virtue at any time in western Canada. I am merely saying that I hope sales of wheat to anywhere in the world will never become a political football. The more wheat sales which the minister, the Wheat Board or the administration make, the more delighted we are in western Canada. I merely remind the minister to be consistent in this matter and not to make political hay when we sell wheat. I am not casting aspersions on the government, the minister or any former administration for doing that.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): You are doing just what Jack told you to do. He is the leader.

Mr. Bigg: Unless the hon. member, who has sat in this chamber for 13 years, wants to advertise himself as an idiot, he will realize that I have never taken orders from anyone or anything except my own conscience. I represented the will of the people of Athabaska for 10 years, now the district of Pembina. I am not a little dog running at the tail of anyone. I will not lower myself to accuse those who have interjected from their seats that this is a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) is rising to ask a question. He may do so only with the permission of the hon. member.

Mr. Bigg: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): The hon. member just made the statement that he does not take orders from anyone. Does this also apply to the leader of his party?

Mr. Stanfield: Sure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I plead with the hon. member who has the floor and with hon. members on my right. We are not doing justice to the debate. We have a particular amendment before us for consideration. I do not want to prejudice the hon. member who has the floor because he has been asked a question. He is entitled to make a reply. Following his reply, I ask him to please return to the amendment before the House.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This is exactly why I asked the question. I feel that opposition members have not been speaking to the bill. If they would obey the order, we would also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has asked hon. members for order. With regard to the point

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

of order raised by the hon. member for St. Boniface, it does not help the Chair if hon. members to my right ask questions which are out of order. If the hon. member who has the floor is out of order, I suppose he is inviting questions which are out of order. I make no decision on the matter but I plead with hon. members for order.

Mr. Bigg: I will answer questions which are directed to me, although that was not my purpose in rising. I am not responsible for the actions of my leader. I am sure he accepts suggestions from members of this party and from people in his constituency. Although my remarks may not impress the hon. member who just spoke, I ask him to bear with me for a few moments. I am making these remarks in sincerity. I am talking about Bill C-238—

An hon. Member: C-239.

Mr. Bigg: —because this matter intimately concerns me. Both bills are connected with orderliness in agriculture. In my opening remarks I want to show the relevance between the two bills. Unless these bills improve the situation in agriculture, particularly as they relate to sales of not only wheat, oats and barley but rye, flaxseed and rapeseed, there is not much point arguing about this bill. I raised the matter of Bill C-238 because it is definitely connected with Bill C-239.

I said that rapeseed in particular is one of the few remaining cash crops for western farmers. If this commodity and the other two commodities which are closely connected are brought under the control of the Wheat Board, it will be much more difficult for farmers to earn a living. That is why I am here; my constituency is mostly rural. I want to try to make it possible for farmers to pay their bills and repay the government for any cash advances which they receive. I do not see how Bill C-239 can be passed by rural members until it has been properly explained.

The committee has been probing for answers to this question. At present I am not a member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. This is largely due to the fact that we are somewhat limited in number. However, I follow the proceedings of that committee very carefully and I am worried about what I hear. I presume that this amendment to have the principle behind clause 4(2) of the bill clarified is important or it would not have been introduced by the minister and the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski).

If the phrase "of any kind" does not mean anything, why is it necessary to amend the bill by including it? I think this point is very relevant. In the past we have been too prone to pass bills which have not been completely understood. I think we are displaying far too much innocence by signing blank cheques for everything. We have signed enough blank cheques around here. We want to know, now, what the small print means. If the expression, "grain of any kind" means nothing, why does the minister not cause to be written into the bill exactly what he does mean? Let him tell us precisely on what grains the government proposes to place a lien when a farmer goes into debt for a few thousand dollars in order to carry on his expensive operations.