

Feed Grains

of his production returned to him so he can continue to farm. That is not too much to expect. We need a storage policy and a method by which to eliminate the bootlegging which has gone on. We have heard members from the government side talk about the bootlegging of feed grains. Well, they were in power. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) bragged about the government taking the grain industry out of the worst mess it has ever been in. The Liberal government has been in power for ten years. Now the minister claims they took the grain industry out of its mess in 1971 or 1972. Well, who got it into that mess? They get the industry into a mess, they get it out of the mess, and then they want credit for doing so. What does the feeder want? The feeder does not want two-bit barley, or 35-cent barley—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

[Translation]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I am quite happy to have the opportunity of saying a few words about this motion but, frankly, the problems concerning the production and the transportation as well as the sale of grain are always with us. While the problems always seem to be the same from year to year, we can frankly deal with them by referring to new facts, as the lawyers would say. We simply have to question the farmers who are becoming increasingly annoyed in the west, as well as in the east. They are annoyed in the west by the small amount they receive for their crops, and in the east by the exorbitant prices they are forced to pay for the feed which is essential to raise fowl, hogs or dairy or meat cattle. It is true that the Canadian Wheat Board has been operating in the west for many years. The board, whose purpose is the sale of the Canadian grain production, seems to get out from under by selling at higher prices to eastern farmers than on foreign markets. This board has also succeeded in disposing of our production in various countries through credits made available to these countries by the Canadian government. In fact, after receiving credits granted by our country, foreign countries have shown themselves good customers. Obviously, it is easy to do business under such conditions and, in my opinion, this way of doing business needs no comments.

However, the real problem, as I see it, is not located at that level and, if the problem persists, Mr. Speaker, I think that it simply amounts to the fact that the commissions are duplicating. Two commissions under the same government, under the same minister, must contradict themselves. In fact, the Canadian Wheat Board was created for the purpose of selling Canadian grain at the highest possible price and, sometime later, the same government created the Canadian Livestock Feed Board whose purpose was, in 1966, sales at the lowest prices. Then, since those boards controlled by the same authorities have opposing aims, what was to happen did happen and a board is now in an intolerable situation. It is as if two government agencies were fighting one another. Since they are not of the same importance, the stronger won and we know the results.

From 1966, when the livestock feedboard was established, until now in 1973, that is during a period of seven

[Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley).]

years only, we have seen an increase in grain prices from 75 per cent, meaning that what we now pay \$140 a ton, cost \$80 a ton seven years ago, for the same quality, same weight and same percentage of proteins.

● (0030)

Then, Mr. Speaker, for a board having all powers, one cannot really say it is a success and in spite of its powers it is evident that the board has played a poor commercial role like, for example, little girls who play with dolls and say they are pregnant although they never bear children. The board has boasted about all kinds of things, without giving any results.

I think that at the time the board was established the bill was very clear. And, for the information of hon. members, I would like to quote a rather simple paragraph which is found in *Hansard* for October 7, 1966. It reads thus: The Board could

—when authorized by the Governor in Council, enter into direct marketing operations in feed grain.

And in clause 5 of the bill, one could read this:

Objects, powers and duties.

The objects of the Board are to ensure

- (a) the availability of feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;
- (b) the availability of adequate storage space in Eastern Canada for feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders;
- (c) reasonable stability in the price of feed grain in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia and
- (d) fair equalization of feed grain prices in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia.

In clause 6:

The Board may, in furtherance of its objects, (a) make

- (i) payments related to the cost of feed grain storage in Eastern Canada—

I wonder whether the Governor-in-Council has been ill-advised or whether the commissioners have simply lacked boldness. If this is a lack of boldness, Good Lord, there is only one thing to do.

In my opinion, the problem is simply of correcting the situation by appointing new commissioners. Besides, information is lacking and we should find people in a position to inform us. We should go through the recommendations formulated by the UPA and the Quebec flour mills. I am alluding to a rather old brief which dates back to 1971. I said this to point out that we have reports and recommendations made several years ago. It is truly to be regretted that the minister be so reluctant and that the current government waits for I do not know what before acting. Let me refer to this brief. For example, page 3 reads as follows, and I quote:

1. Importance of cereals purchased out of Quebec in Quebec agricultural development.

Quebec is producing about 85 per cent of its pork requirements; 85 per cent of its poultry requirements; finally, 60 per cent of its egg requirements. It is estimated that those productions are largely depending on our cereal imports from western Canada and on American corn. In recent years, Quebec has imported over 1 million tons of cereals a year from western Canada (45,000,000 bushels) and about 300,000 tons of American corn. These supplies are most important for Quebec since they stand for 45 per cent of its cattle feed grain requirements. If you add to this the indirect effects of those productions on Quebec's economy, you will have a