

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

some time, there is no provision which requires that these regulations be considered by the house or in fact by a committee.

Bill No. C-218 setting up an eastern feed grain agency is a completely new departure in legislation. All through the progress of this legislation in the house and committee, apprehensions have been raised about what may be done with this act when passed. For example, I can remember more than one member rising in his place last Thursday and Friday and saying words to the effect that what is important is not so much what is in the act but how it is administered.

Apprehensions have been raised that the act when passed may defeat its purpose, if it is intended to be of assistance to the family-sized farm, the bona fide farmer, or whatever name you wish to call them, because it would be of even greater assistance to the large commercial enterprises and the integrated livestock feeding operations in eastern Canada, in that this provision could of course intensify competition in the livestock markets for the family-type farm. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, it would displace to some extent—and this has been drawn to the attention of the house previously—the geographical position of the livestock feeding operations in Canada, to the detriment of the efficiency of all our grain and livestock producing establishments.

Therefore, because it is a new departure in legislation and because we do not have a set of regulations before us now that would give us an indication of the details of how this act will be administered, I think it would be useful to have this additional provision in the act to ensure that the House of Commons, or perhaps the committee on agriculture, forestry and rural development, could consider the regulations. It would be mandatory that they consider the regulations, at least for the first few years after we have seen how this act operates.

The amendment I have suggested simply requires that the minister bring in the regulations annually for study, I would presume near the beginning of each session, and that he move that they be referred to the committee on agriculture, forestry and rural development for study. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I think my amendment has some merit, particularly for the first two or three years of the operation of his act. After the board has been set up and the regulations have been in operation and amended from time to time, after we have seen how the act is working

[Mr. Olson.]

and have made sure that it is in fact functioning to achieve the end result that was intended, this amendment could of course be withdrawn in so far as its mandatory effect is concerned. Meanwhile I believe this is a useful kind of amendment that would in fact satisfy many members of the house who are wondering what is going to happen in respect of the operation of the act.

The minister himself, for example, said that he did not know what kind of regulations or administration were going to be set up to deal with the possibility of the larger feeders obtaining the major share of any subsidies for freight and storage that would be paid out of the operating fund of this board. Therefore I say to the minister in all seriousness that I think the house should have the right to review these regulations at least annually in the initial stages.

● (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Sauv : I would not like the house to think there is a sinister plot behind these regulations, that everything is being done behind closed doors. If hon. members would like to refer to *Hansard* of last Friday, they will see on page 8499 reference to an appendix containing regulations governing the actual system of payments. This has been published in an order in council, in the *Canada Gazette* and in the appendix. Clause 22 provides for an annual report to parliament. In reviewing the annual report the house may decide to send it to a committee for examination. I really do not see what benefit could be derived from this amendment as presently worded.

There is another point which I should like to make. After the regulations are passed, they will be reviewed by parliament a year later. I really do not see the necessity for this amendment as long as we proceed normally. I have gained the impression, after hearing some hon. members, that they believe some plot is being hatched against someone. I would like to know against whom, because the purpose of this bill is to improve the conditions of the farmers in eastern Canada and in British Columbia. It is not directed against anyone. This has been the platform of all the political parties for a good many years.

I have the impression that some hon. members think we want to act behind closed doors. We must help the boards to administer their acts and not hamper them in a way which will make it more difficult for them to