

Canada Grain Bill

and Services (Mr. Richardson), will be very unhappy when the subsidiary companies of James Richardson and Sons are out of business in the country elevators. They had better quit kidding, because every indication from the time of the Bracken commission until now is that if you deliver boxcars to the elevator of the farmer's choice, a bunch of your friends will go broke. I dare you to implement this provision. I hope you do. I am going to vote for this bill to see whether or not you do it. It will be interesting to find out.

● (9:10 p.m.)

It will be interesting to see what kind of excuses these hon. gentlemen give their friends in the private grain trade when they allocate boxcars to the elevator of the farmer's choice. It will be interesting to see what excuses the hon. member for Assiniboia will give in the sundry communities with which he and I are acquainted, when some of his friends in the elevator companies that are sitting there go belly up. I am waiting to see this, and I have to vote for this bill for that if for no other reason.

There is another reason why I have to vote for this bill. The Liberals are on the spot after 30 cotton-picking years of waiting. The Tories had six years. They had their chance and they blew it. Now they run around the Prairies saying they are friends of the farmers. They talked about elevators of the farmer's choice and they talked about parity prices: then they blew it. Now the Liberals have put it in writing in a bill.

I am dying to see what will happen with this clause on page 69 of the bill regarding the direction of the allocation of boxcars and the ordering of the railways. I am dying to find this out now that the Liberals have put it in writing. They are now putting in writing what they have been mouthing for all these years. When they do it, they and the Tories will lose the grain business and their grain business friends. It seems to me that if the government implements this bill as and when they say they will, the member of the cabinet from Winnipeg, who is part and parcel of the Winnipeg grain exchange and the private grain business, will have no choice but to resign.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Benjamin: Either that, or these people are still kidding the farmers like the Tories did. All of them are the same breed of cat.

Some hon. Members: Oh, no!

Mr. Benjamin: Yes, they are all in the same bag.

An hon. Member: The same old gang.

Mr. Benjamin: It's damn funny, Mr. Speaker. I might have been elected for a lot of crazy reasons, and perhaps the voters in my riding were "had" for a while; but there is one reason why they were not crazy—and I may have been elected by accident or by default—and that is that they were bloody tired of being taken in by these flannel-

[Mr. Benjamin.]

mouthing people from places like Assiniboia, Crowfoot, Medicine Hat and Red Deer who only talk to the farmers. Will they bring in amendments to the Canada Grain Act and changes to the farm marketing boards for people who have never believed in farm marketing boards?

While the Liberals and the Tories have been in office we have watched 300,000 farms being lost to Canada. While these people talked about legislation when they were in office we lost another 100,000 farms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) rising on a point of order?

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, since I have been included in the noble group which the hon. member just named, could he tell the House whether he is referring to the former or to the present member for Assiniboia?

Mr. Benjamin: I am referring to both. I am also referring to Red Deer, to Ethiopia or to any other place when it comes to the number of people that rural Canada has lost, to the family farms and to compounding the felonies that they have perpetrated on urban Canada because of the people we have driven from the land. These people who have betrayed rural Canada now sit as government members. The member who used to sit on SARM, and who has been active in the wheat pool movement, now betrays family farms. Now that it is in writing I want to see the production, and that is why I will vote for the bill.

We have lost over half of the family farms in Canada since 1945. The proposals made by these experts, whether it be the Minister of Agriculture or the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, are nothing more than further contributions to the elimination of rural Canada and the elimination of communities such as the one from which the hon. member for Assiniboia comes and about which he talks out of both sides of his mouth. He talks one way and votes another. We are fed up with it. I tell hon. members that I am going to spend a great deal of time and cross many miles asking the people in his riding where the hon. member for Assiniboia was when their communities were dying, their post offices were being closed, their railway stations were being closed, and now that their elevators will be closed.

Mr. Speaker, we have had enough of this damn double-talk on farm bills from these dinosaurs and these old parties who talked about family farms out of one side of their mouth and who said and did everything they could to promote the Winnipeg grain exchange and to defeat and destroy public compulsory marketing of farm products. They do everything they can to give aid and comfort to the railways which should be a public service, and they do everything they can to give aid and comfort to these outfits that have robbed the people of Canada in general and the farmers in particular.

The hon. member for Assiniboia and the hon. member for Medicine Hat, as well as the dinosaurs in the Tory opposition, will have to answer. I would like you fellows to show up this weekend in Lisgar. You can pick the