

Canada Grain Act

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

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Horner: Surely my persuasive argument has not been made in vain and the minister will comment on it without referring to a page in the committee's proceedings.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I must remind the hon. member that his point was made earlier. If the minister wishes to rise to speak to the point, he can do so. The Chair cannot call on the minister to speak.

Mr. Baldwin: We will allow him unlimited time, if he wants it.

Mr. Olson: I will reply to the hon. member. In spite of his eloquence he forgot to say one thing, that is, that his amendment is designed to limit the weigh-ins or weigh-overs at primary elevators to the total grain stored in that elevator, and in my view that is unacceptable.

Mr. Horner: Are they going to weigh-over other grain that is not stored in the elevator?

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

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Pursuant to Standing Order 75 (11), the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain) moved:

That Bill C-196, an act respecting grain, be amended by striking out the word "pleasure" in line 39, page 9 thereof, and substituting therefor the words "good behaviour for ten years".

He said: Mr. Speaker, my amendment this afternoon, although a short one, is very important. But before making my comments

to support the amendment I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) for his comprehensive review last night of a number of amendments now on the Order Paper which ran contrary to the dissertation and pleadings of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) in trying to defend himself against the 44 amendments now on the Order Paper.

I would also like to compliment the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) who this afternoon brought to the attention of the House and a number of hon. members who were not aware of them, some of the constitutional inadequacies in this bill which would make it impossible for the House to pass it. This prevents our making progress so far as these amendments are concerned.

I was quite concerned and in fact astonished at the glaringly political speech of my friend and colleague from Saskatchewan who spoke this afternoon. He left the impression that God is in his heaven and all is right with the world. I suggest that there would not be 44 amendments on the Order Paper if everything was right with this bill. True enough, we had considerable discussion in the Standing Committee on Agriculture, but even there it was only after pleading with the chairman of the committee that I, as a temporary member of the committee, could persuade the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) that we should not proceed without hearing witnesses.

When we did hear them, one of the main organizations referred to this afternoon by the hon. member for Crowfoot, the Canada Grains Council, presented no less than 83 amendments to this so-called perfect bill, 50 major amendments and 33 minor ones. I say this just to give an example of how defective is this bill. Therefore, I am not making any apology to the government or to any member of the House for supporting my colleagues and for asking that further consideration be given to amending some of these defects?

My amendment to Bill C-196 deals with the appointment of commissioners to the new Canadian Grain Commission and, more specifically, relates to their tenure of office. I shall read my amendment to clause 3 of the bill. Part I, setting up the Canadian Grain Commission, is entitled "Constitution of the Commission and Commissioners", and clause 3 reads as follows:

There shall be a commission to be known as the Canadian Grain Commission consisting of three commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council to hold office during pleasure.