

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

They are the matters which are referred to in the clause, namely:

—to study and review all matters relating to feed grain transportation, storage, prices and consumption that are referred to it either by the minister or by the board;

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Chairman, before this amendment is entertained I should like to raise a point of order. The hon. member for Mégantic made a statement which is not in accordance with the facts. He said that the Canadian Wheat Board guarantees the price to the producer.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Right.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): That is not right. The Wheat Board pays an initial payment to the producer but the final payment is the result of the price received. I thought he might have left the impression that the western farmer was being subsidized to the extent that his price was guaranteed, and this is not so.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): If I might clarify that, I meant that the board guaranteed the initial price. What I am beefing about is: Who is the guy who gets the difference between the two prices? The price is the result of the state of the wheat market, and that depends on the grain exchanges and the brokers. This is what the president of the Wheat Board told me in committee two years ago. They are his words, not mine. I thank the hon. member for clarifying the matter.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Amendment (Mr. Danforth) agreed to.

• (4:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the amendment moved by the member for Mégantic (Mr. Langlois), I think first of all that he is not moving it at the proper time. He should wait until we reach paragraph 1 of clause 15. Second, I fail to understand who could sit on the committee, if members of the advisory committee must not have any financial interest. Since the farmers who represent farming organizations and who will sit on that committee very often go in for farming themselves, they indirectly have some financial interests.

To the extent that representatives of farming organizations will sit on that committee,

[Mr. Langlois (Mégantic).]

it seems impossible to me that it could also include business representatives, for the very reason that conflicts of interest might arise. Therefore, I fail to see the necessity of an amendment such as the one you intend to move.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): I see the point which the minister is trying to make, namely whether that would imply farmers. I did not intend to imply feeders of eastern Canada. The consumer, properly speaking, is excluded. I mentioned "financial interest" in the field of grain transport, storage and sale. Now, it could be anyone in the agricultural field, but on no consideration would I like to see a farmer interested in the specific fields of grain transport, storage, sale, or milling appointed to that committee. It belongs to the committee to inquire of those people—in order to avoid a clash of interests. And I am not talking from the consumer viewpoint now.

Mr. Sauvé: I should like to give an example to the hon. member for Mégantic. Suppose a farmer has his own truck and picks up his grain at the elevator, in Montreal, Quebec or Trois-Rivières. Then, he is entitled to have a truck for his own purposes. Now, according to your definition or the limitations you set, he could not sit on the committee by reason of his being engaged in transportation, be it for himself or even for his neighbours. I think that you—

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Chairman, if he carries grain for his neighbours, he is in business and needs a special licence for that. If he carries grain for himself, then anybody can do that. One simply has to have a driver's licence and a truck licence and anybody knows that the farmer can carry goods if he has a truck licence, provided it is for himself. If he is engaged in a gainful operation, he needs a licence from the transportation board, which is quite another thing. In that case he is a farmer, but he is governed by the transportation board. But I mean all those directly involved, and that is why I referred to those directly engaged in transportation and storage under a special licence. I know such licence is necessary in business, even for farmers.

Some people hold two positions. Well, in that case, it cannot be helped; if they are moonlighters or if they have a profitable business going, they should not be allowed to sit on that committee.