

*Transportation*

there will be considerable amendments to the policy enunciated in this bill. I am sure also that all shippers, whether producers or not, will watch with great interest the administration of the policy embodied in the bill and the administrative changes related to the bill. We shall be referring to this matter when a report is made to the house from year to year.

As I said before, I rise particularly to deal with my good friend from Macleod.

**Mr. Kindt:** Good.

**Mr. Herridge:** As found on page 12299 of *Hansard* the hon. member is recorded as saying:

I am quite familiar with the facts which the hon. member for Kootenay West has given. I am aware also of the representations of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture. Let me say that federation, in turn, represents some small fruit farmers and the others in British Columbia. I represent 6,000 wheat farmers and I am protecting the interests of the wheat farmers of Alberta.

I now bring to the hon. gentleman's attention something contained in the minutes and proceedings of the standing committee on transport and communications of October 17, 1966. The representative of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture made representations. As found on page 1874 of the committee report Mr. L. A. Currie, chairman of the feed and grain committee, said:

Gentlemen:

We appear before you today to suggest ways in which legislation regarding railfreight rates and freight assistance on feed grains can be improved to the benefit of both the farmers of British Columbia and the government of Canada.

We represent the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, which organization's over 14,000 members contains practically 100 per cent of the farmers and farm organizations purchasing and growing feed grains in the province of B.C.

**Mr. Patterson:** Hear, hear.

• (3:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Herridge:** I am very glad to have the endorsement of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Patterson). He knows that, as is usual in my observations in this house, what I am saying is strictly the truth. In this connection I have some agricultural statistics published by the Social Credit government of British Columbia, which will prove the point I am making. I want to say that never once have I found anything wrong with their regular statistics published in connection with production in the province. The only time I have had reason to doubt their statistics was when they concerned the cost of the Columbia treaty projects. This is what it says,

[Mr. Herridge.]

here, under the heading "Agricultural Statistics, 1965":

Estimated Cash Receipts from the Sale of Farm Products, 1964-1965:

Wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, other crops	\$ 48,751,000
Cattle and calves, hogs, sheep and lambs, dairy products, poultry, eggs, other livestock and products	\$109,433,000

So the total estimated receipt for farm products in 1965—the last year for which I have the figures—is \$158,184,000.

In the light of these figures which I have given at the request of people connected with the British Columbia Federation of Agriculture, I am sure the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Kindt), with his usual courtesy, will willingly retract the statement he made last night, a statement which was widely misunderstood in British Columbia.

The British Columbia Federation of Agriculture is pleased that the minister has seen fit to include in this bill provision for a study of freight rates paid for the carriage of grain used by producers in British Columbia. They welcome it and look forward to having the opportunity to present their views to the commission when it considers this question. This is all I have to say now. I am looking forward to hearing a few remarks by the hon. member for Macleod.

**Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod):** I am most happy to have an opportunity to say a few words in response to the statements which have been made by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge). I would not for one moment wish to take away any political advantage from him. He felt at liberty to bring in the views of the Federation of Agriculture and point out that the federation had 14,000 members, compared with the 6,000 big farmers in my riding who are raising wheat. I have no quarrel with the comparison. I do not even complain that the hon. member for Kootenay West felt unwilling to confine the comparison to his own riding in which, I happen to know, there are a large number of small chicken farmers—people who raise chickens and who buy Alberta wheat in order to feed those chickens. I have nothing against that.

I would not mind what he said in any way, had he confined his remarks to his own riding. I have every sympathy for his chicken farmers and fruit farmers who raise a few chickens and want wheat from the prairies. I have no objection to that. I have no objection to their wanting our wheat. In fact I am very