

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five Members having risen:*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 114(11), the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West)** moved:

Motion No. 20

That Bill C-18, be amended in Clause 36 by striking out line 1 at page 15 and substituting the following therefor:

"(2) At any proceeding of the Agency for the".

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, first, I want to indicate that the purpose of this amendment is to provide the agency with some flexibility. The current word in the Act is "hearing". We are proposing to replace it with the word "proceeding". This may seem like a moot point to some, but a number of witnesses who appeared before the committee during our hearings into Bill C-18 felt that the word "hearing" was too prominent and that it restricted the agency from having other less formal methods of doing business. In this case the change would guarantee the right of special interest groups to make representations at a proceeding.

Clearly, when we look at the role of the agency, as well as other quasi-judicial bodies which we all have encountered over the years, we see that some are very formal. Some have very strict rules with respect to who can participate and to what degree. This amendment would change the intent and the focus. It would give some flexibility to the situation.

For example, with respect to a rail line abandonment, instead of the formal hearings that we have experienced with the CTC over the years being held where there is legal counsel and the right to cross-examine perhaps there could be town hall meetings. The agency could go out into western Canada, or out into the area between Ottawa and Sudbury, or to the Eastern Townships, Moncton or Atlantic Canada and hold informal information gathering sessions in order to get a feel for the issue. The agency could get a feel for what the abandonment of a particular line would mean to the people who live beside it and depend upon it without those people having to go through the very trying process of sitting down and putting together a brief, a document, that will be tested. By doing this we would open up the process.

If this amendment were to be accepted we would open up the process to the people of Canada. In this way we would no longer have to rely on lawyers or lobbyists who perform this work on a full-time basis. In this way the ordinary man and woman could participate in the process and feel as if someone is listening to them.

### *Parity Prices for Farm Products Act*

One of my beliefs is that too often decisions are made by Parliament, by Cabinet, by legislatures, for valid reasons. There are also decisions made by private corporations for valid reasons. But the people who are affected by them have no ownership with respect to the results. They may bear the brunt of the results but they certainly do not feel as if they were part and parcel of arriving at them.

If I can use an example—

**Mr. Thacker:** We will agree to this one.

**Mr. Angus:** Given a comment I have just heard I think I should sit down and see what happens, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Thacker:** Mr. Speaker, we are almost at the close of today's proceedings. Because of the progress we have made and the cogency of arguments with respect to Motion No. 20 the Government will agree to this motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The question is on Motion No. 20 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall I call it five o'clock?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

### PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, April 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. Nystrom that Bill C-221, an Act respecting parity prices for farm products, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Murray Dorin (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, the Bill before us today as presented by the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) offers perhaps the clearest display of New Democratic economic policy and socialist philosophy that we have currently before the House, or in anything that that Party has presented.

The essence of the Bill is to provide a return or a price to farmers essentially to cover their costs, plus a reasonable profit. On first blush that seems like a pretty sound idea and something that all of us would like to see. However, if we wish