

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

I think of this advisory committee not as just a group of people who may or may not come from different regions; I think of it as being comprised of people who have a very close tie with organizations which are close to the grass roots situation. I think too of the advisory committee having members who are able to speak freely to and on behalf of the area they represent. These are things I would expect to see in an advisory committee. I would not like to see an advisory committee appointed comprising a number of people, 7 or 11, who will be paid a very nice daily allowance plus travel fees, who will meet perhaps two or three times a year in Ottawa, who will accept without question what the board or the minister tells them and who will issue very functional and pleasant statements once a year which will give some description of what their activities have been.

I for one feel that if we are to have an advisory committee at all which will mean anything we have to build it into the various subclauses in clause 15. I think we will have to say something very specific about the availability of some kind of staff for the advisory committee and in particular the availability of some kind of research and independent information facilities. I think we also have to indicate that the various people who are proper to be members of this committee should in some way represent the important agencies which are caught up in this great problem. It may not be possible to designate that, say, the Federation of Agriculture have an appointee, but this would be one of the happiest solutions. There must, however, be some recognition of the close ties that will exist between this committee and the organizations which have a real stake in the question of increasing the availability of grain and supplying it to the producers.

I think we have to state very clearly that the committee is free to examine questions of its own choice. In my view this is not stated clearly enough. In subclause 6 it says that only matters referred to it by the minister or by the board are acceptable for consideration. I think the committee should be able to decide on its own what particular avenue or aspect it wants to investigate. Finally, I think we should add at the end of subclause 6(b) something to the effect that this committee shall publish information and conclusions on a regular basis so that producers in the eastern and western parts of the country can know what are the real facts.

[Mr. MacDonald (Prince).]

We have an example right now of an impasse in the great misunderstanding which exists between some of the officials and private industry in respect of the new rates. Some of the local producers have been meeting last week and this week to sort out what they mean.

I think we need a real advisory committee which will mean something and not be like a shadow of what the minister may decide. I think we should build these things into clause 15. It may be that over the week end since Friday the minister has been able to consider my statement in this regard, consult with his advisors, and is now able to make available to us this afternoon some means by which these things may be brought about. If not, I will be ready to make various amendments which I feel are important to this clause of the bill.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Sauv : Mr. Chairman, on Friday I did not have an opportunity to answer the suggestions of the hon. member. His proposal is to establish a second board. We have one board and we have an advisory committee. I feel that the powers of the advisory committee are sufficient. I informed the house last Friday that this committee would work, *mutatis mutandis*, on the same basis as the Canadian council on rural development which works I think to the satisfaction of all concerned. I do not see how we can improve on clause 15, particularly when we compare it with the ARDA legislation containing only two paragraphs in respect of the council on rural development. I am quite satisfied that the intent and the wording of the bill are sufficient for the establishment of an advisory committee for the purposes explained. Surely we cannot have two boards doing the same work. I do not think we can improve on the intent of this bill by implementing what the hon. member has suggested.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat amazed by the minister who seems to think I have suggested the establishment of two boards. Because of the complexity of the situation we need an advisory committee that means something. If he is thinking of an advisory committee with the ability to look at the situation objectively but which is not going to have any power, then he does not want an advisory committee at all. Perhaps he is thinking of a group of people who will somehow placate the many who disagree with the decisions of the board.