

*Canada Grain Act*

my amendment suggests that the words "of any grade" be taken out particularly when they refer to primary elevators. The proposed amendment to this clause will distinguish between weigh-overs which occur at primary elevators as opposed to terminal elevators. This distinction is important because the Board of Grain Commissioners must inspect weigh-overs in each type of elevator.

This clause of the bill does not make any such distinction, although there is a distinct difference in the procedure at terminal elevators and country elevators. Until this time the terminal elevators have not been allowed to mix the four first grades of wheat. The primary elevators can mix them, and therefore there might be overages or losses in respect of a given grade at the time of weigh-over in a particular primary elevator. Basically, that is the purport of the amendment.

On this and other points it is interesting to note what the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool representatives had to say in their brief, as reported at pages 99 and 100 of report No. 34 of the proceedings of the Committee on Agriculture. Mr. McLeod, research co-ordinator of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, made the statement to which I refer. The suggestion has been made in the House this afternoon that this bill will not benefit the producers. This is what the Saskatchewan wheat pool, which is directly responsible to its membership and producers participating in the pool, had to say about this clause. I quote from page 100 of the proceedings and evidence of the committee:

It would appear that the extensive powers proposed would place a very heavy load of responsibility on the shoulders of members of the proposed Canadian Grain Commission for wide-ranging decisions affecting a very large and very important Canadian industry.

They go on to say that very great care must be taken in regard to appointments to the Canadian Grain Commission, perhaps even more care than has been taken in past years. I just point that out. Even the largest producer-owned co-op handling grain in western Canada admits that this bill gives wide-ranging powers to the Canadian Grain Commission which it did not have until this time. The wide-ranging powers are there because losses and overages do occur. Until this time weigh-ups have been a regular part of the duties of the Board of Grain Commissioners. There should be no misunderstanding. If wide-ranging powers to operate something are to be given by the government, Parliament or the people there should be no misunderstanding

[Mr. Horner.]

in the interpretation and in the wording of the bill. Subclause 50 of clause 2 provides that a weigh-over means the weighing and inspection of all grain of any grade in an elevator for the purpose of determining the amount in stock of grain of that grade in the elevator. It does not distinguish between terminal and primary elevators, and it is a "must" that that distinction be made because in one elevator there has been freedom to mix.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Even after this bill passes, in the terminal elevators there will be mixing only under special conditions and under the supervision of the Board of Grain Commissioners. But no supervision is carried on now, and even if this bill should pass there would be no supervision of mixing at the primary elevators; any man could mix as he desired. So there is in the two types of elevators a distinction between the operations in the mixing of grades. Therefore, this clause should be amended before such wide-ranging powers are given to the board.

I do not profess to know too much about the grain handling business; I just sell wheat to the elevators once in a while. I am not hooked on Operation Lift. I do know that this clause in the bill is not clear and I hope I have cleared it up in the minds of hon. members. I also hope that the minister will act in a spirit of co-operation, which I know at times he can develop. I hope he understands the point I am trying to make, that a distinction must be made between primary and terminal elevators. I dealt with this point in the committee and I urged the government to consider the point I am now making. This is not an earth-shaking amendment; it will not block the operations of the Board of Grain Commissioners but, rather, it will clarify the wide-ranging powers that this bill would give to the board.

If we are giving the board such wide-ranging powers we should at least make them clear, so that those powers are used in the best interests of the producers of Canada. I am not asking for a great change in the bill or that the bill to be scrapped. This is just a small amendment to clarify the duties of the board that will be set up under the act. Surely the minister and the House can see some logic in the arguments that I have put forward in this regard. I hope that hon. members who are not knowledgeable regarding the grain trade now see the reason for the amendment I propose and will support it.