

*Box Car Distribution*

That letter is signed by myself. I expect that the Canadian wheat board will issue detailed instructions to the trade within the next few days in light of the broad principles outlined in the directive which I have just read.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to Mr. Bracken and his colleagues who assisted in this inquiry. They have made a thorough investigation of this important aspect of grain marketing. Their report is the first authoritative study of box car distribution problems in western Canada and will serve as a useful guide in these matters for many years.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I think this is the first occasion on which I have ever had to speak on box cars. The circumstances are somewhat surprising in that we are in the last minutes of the last day of the session. I realize that the minister's statement deals with a matter of concern among producers in western Canada, and I hope the information he has been good enough to give us will help to remove some of that concern.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, this is the second occasion on which I have had the opportunity of speaking on box cars, but because I am a bit foggy as to the implications of the minister's statement, can he tell me if the statement he has just read will correct the situation which I raised on orders of the day this morning on behalf of several wheat pool committees in Saskatchewan which had complained of certain deficiencies with respect to the distribution of box cars?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I wonder if the minister is now in a position to answer the question I asked him about box cars some time ago which he did not answer at that time?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) asked a question in the course of his statement which, with the leave of the house, might be answered. Perhaps he would ask it again.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, I was asking the minister this. I am a bit foggy as to the full implications of his statement because I am not very well acquainted with the distribution of box cars. Would the minister inform the house if his statement corrects the situation that I complained of this morning on orders of the day on behalf of the various wheat pool committees in Saskatchewan?

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, it will have that effect.

[Mr. Churchill.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps by unanimous consent this sitting might be suspended until the messenger arrives from the other place, to be signified by the ringing of the bell.

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, while we are waiting for the messenger to arrive, perhaps you will allow me to follow the usual custom which has been pursued in this house now for some years. It is for the opposition to extend to those who are responsible for the business of the house their thanks and gratitude for the manner in which that business has been conducted during the session. On behalf of the opposition I would like to express to you, Mr. Speaker, our thanks for the manner in which you have accepted our points of view. While we have not always agreed with the decisions which you have handed down, and while sometimes we may have felt on this side of the house that they were not in accordance with our liking, none the less I would I think be remiss in my duty were I not to say to you that since you represent constituted authority in this house we always have respected your judgments and your decisions, and I am sure that such will be the case in the future.

I think, sir, too, that I would like to express to the house leader my thanks for the very co-operative manner in which he and I have gotten along during the course of this session. I can say in all sincerity that because the house leader, who is now the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green), will be going on to higher duties and functions, I take it he will not be in a position to carry on in that capacity at the next session, but I would want him to know that I personally have appreciated a great deal working with him during the course of the session. I would also like to express my hope that the Prime Minister will find it possible to appoint in his stead someone with whom I and those of us who sit on this side of the house will be able to co-operate in order to expedite the business of the house.

I think I would also wish to express a word of thanks to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the acting house leader, for the manner in which he has conducted the proceedings in the last few days in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I think there is one thing which these last few days have indicated and it is that when we in the House of Commons, no matter where we sit, determine and decide that we are going to do a thing in accordance with agreement, then we can do it, and it is all to the credit of those of us who sit on both sides of the house that the agreement