

whole for the purpose of amending clauses 2, 6 and 10. It will be possible to come out of committee of the whole and give the bill third reading within that hour. Otherwise, I will be very disappointed, having made the amendments.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**STATUTE LAW (METRIC CONVERSION)  
AMENDMENT ACT, 1976**

**AMENDMENTS TO WHEAT BOARD ACT TO FACILITATE  
CONVERSION TO METRIC SYSTEM**

The House resumed, from Thursday, June 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Marchand (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) that Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement, be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we require the consent of the House to give authority to return to committee of the whole for consideration of clauses 2, 6 and 10.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We were never there on this bill.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Return to, or go into committee of the whole. Whatever words the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) wishes to select, I will concur. May we have consent on that?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Is it agreed that I do now leave the chair to go into committee of the whole on Bill C-23?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

The House went into committee on Bill C-23—Mr. Ethier in the chair.

*On clause 2*

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to take the floor in preference to the minister. However, I move:

That Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement, be amended in clause 2

(a) by striking out lines 7 to 13 inclusive on page 1 and substituting the following:

"2. (1) The following provisions of the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*, namely,"

and (b) by striking out line 23 on page 1 and substituting the following:

"(2) This section shall come into force on"

I believe hon. members have had copies of this proposed amendment.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, I am just a simple city boy. Will somebody tell me what this amendment does?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Chairman, these three amendments just deal with restoring the acre back into the various pieces of legislation.

*Metric System*

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Marchand:** This one deals with the Wheat Board Act. As hon. members know, we have had many representations from that side and this side of the House relating to the removal of the "hectare" from the four pieces of legislation. We are just restoring the "acre".

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Chairman, I agree with the explanation given by the minister. However, he left out a very important element of this change. According to the correspondence we have all been receiving from western farmers, they have made a number of representations on this matter and will be very much in favour of this capitulation by the government.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. MacEachen** moved:

That Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement, be amended in clause 6

(a) by striking out lines 17 to 28 inclusive on page 4 and substituting the following:

"6. (1) The following provisions of the *Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act*, namely,"

(b) by striking out line 31 on page 4 and substituting the following:

"(b) subsections 4(2) and 7(1), (2) and (4), and"

(c) by striking out lines 36 to 44 inclusive on page 4 and lines 1 to 12 on page 5 and substituting the following:

"(2) Paragraph 7.1(4)(b) of the said Act is"; and

(d) by striking out line 26 on page 5 and substituting the following:

"(3) This section shall come into force on a"

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Does the President of the Privy Council know what he has just said? What does it mean?

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister a question. Does this really mean that "hectare" is dead? Is that what this motion indicates? Seeing that the President of the Privy Council did not answer the question, I thought maybe the minister responsible for small business could answer. Is that what the second amendment means?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** How do you spell "hectare"?

**Mr. Alexander:** It does not matter, as long as he is dead.

**Mr. Marchand:** I do not know what kind of language they use in describing this situation, whether it is dead or not. Certainly, the "hectare" is being removed from the Canadian Wheat Board Act. In this amendment it is removed from the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. It restores the "acre" wherever it was used on previous occasions.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Marchand:** As far as being dead is concerned, I would like to refer to some words by Premier Loughheed when talking about moves in their legislature not to proceed with converting the usage of "acre" to "hectare". He said that perhaps at some