Canadian Livestock Feed Board

Mr. Sherman: Mr. Chairman, I was interested in the comments of the hon. member for Villeneuve with respect to centralization, and his saying that in view of the fact that the marketing centre for grain is located in Winnipeg the distribution centre should not be located there. I would like to know how far he is willing to pursue this thesis on centralization with respect to other industries-for example with respect to our publicly owned air line and its headquarters location in Winnipeg or Montreal. Where does he think centralization starts and ends? Winnipeg is the logical centre for the proposed board. I would be much interested in pursuing this question with the hon. member for Villeneuve, either inside or outside the chamber.

Mr. Caouette: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has asked what I mean by centralization and decentralization, and has mentioned Air Canada. I am strongly in favour of decentralization, whether it be to Montreal or Winnipeg, so that Canada can present a truly national figure, so that organizations are attached not to one section or sector of our economy but to the whole of Canada. I am not asking Winnipeg to come to Montreal or Noranda, just as I would not ask Montreal and Noranda to transfer to Winnipeg. I would like Winnipeg, Montreal and Noranda to live together as Canadians.

Mr. Patterson: I have listened with a great deal of interest to the exchanges that have taken place regarding the location of the headquarters of the feed grain agency. The Minister of Forestry and Rural Development has said we should permit consultation with the organization respecting the proper place for its headquarters, but he went on to say it should be located in eastern Canada. I would remind him that this bill is entitled, "An act to provide assistance to livestock feeders in eastern Canada and British Columbia," and I think the British Columbia aspect has been forgotten.

If the matter is to be settled by consultation, then the minister should delete his reference to eastern Canada. I am not going to suggest that the headquarters should be located in Vancouver, which would be a beautiful spot, or at Chilliwack in my constituency, a beautiful little city in a splendid location. I am not suggesting that; but I do point out the unfairness of the minister's saying there will be consultation, but the

the capital city would be the proper place for the headquarters.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, I would have thought the merit of this amendment was so obvious that it would have the unanimous support of the committee. Hon. members will realize how unprejudiced I am when I say that I have escaped living in Ottawa by 40 rods.

I suggest that the dissipation of the operations of government into various other communities is an unsound proposition. If there is to be any dissipation, the government should have courage and put it forward in legislation. When the Canadian Wheat Board Act was passed the government of the day came to parliament and said that "the headquarters shall be in the city of Winnipeg in the province of Manitoba." That was all right, and the House of Commons made the decision in that case.

• (9:30 p.m.)

What is the minister proposing? He is proposing the secrecy of the privy council chamber; he wants to get behind closed doors so that he can have all the logrolling. The Minister of Agriculture will say he can get some votes in Renfrew if it is taken to Renfrew. Then the Secretary of State for External Affairs will say, "Oh, yes; Windsor is the centre of the universe". The Minister of Transport will say "Well, if we can get it far enough east we can get it down to Bonavista". Behind closed doors we will have all this logrolling going on from time to time.

Mr. Greene: Will the hon. member tell me whether he is against locating the headquarters in Renfrew.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, if I had my choice, legitimately, I would put it in the community in which the hon. gentleman is interested, and that is the community of Carp.

Mr. Pickersgill: What have you against Bell's Corners?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): We are going to have this behind closed doors and have a lot of logrolling, with one minister vying with another to get an operation of government. We have seen the dissipation. We saw the National Film Board taken out of this community. We saw homes being destroyed in the city of Ottawa. Hon. gentlemen opposite know all about what has happened. Had it location must be in eastern Canada. I believe not been for the protests from this side of the

[Mr. Muir (Lisgar.]