

Messrs.

Parent	Reid	Stewart
Pearsall	Richardson	(Cochrane)
Pelletier	Robinson	Stollery
(Hochelaga)	Rompkey	Symes
Pelletier	Roy	Tessier
(Sherbrooke)	(Timmins)	Trudeau
Peters	Roy	Turner
Philbrook	(Laval)	(London East)
Pinard	Saltsman	Watson
Portelance	Sharp	Whelan
Poulin	Smith	Yanakis
Railton	(Saint-Jean)	Young—138.
Raines	Stanbury	

NAYS

Messrs.

Alexander	Hamilton	McKinnon
Alkenbrack	(Swift Current-	Muir
Andre	Maple Creek)	Munro
(Calgary Centre)	Holmes	(Esquimalt-Saanich)
Baker	Horner	Murta
(Grenville-Carleton)	Howie	Neil
Baldwin	Huntington	Nielsen
Balfour	Hurlburt	Nowlan
Beatty	Jarvis	O'Sullivan
Brisco	Jelinek	Paproski
Cadieu	Knowles	Patterson
Carter	(Norfolk-Haldimand)	Reynolds
Clark	Korchinski	Ritchie
(Rocky Mountain)	La Salle	Roche
Clarke	Lawrence	Rynard
(Vancouver Quadra)	MacDonald	Scott
Coates	(Egmont)	Skoreyko
Cossitt	MacDonald (Miss)	Smith
Crouse	(Kingston and the	(Churchill)
Dick	Islands)	Stanfield
Ellis	MacKay	Stevens
Elzinga	MacLean	Stewart
Fairweather	Macquarrie	(Marquette)
Forrestall	Malone	Towers
Fraser	Marshall	Wagner
Friesen	McCain	Wenman
Halliday	McCleave	Whiteway
Hamilton	McGrath	Whittaker
(Qu'Appelle-Moose	McKenzie	Wise
Mountain)	McKinley	Woolliams
		Yewchuk—76.

● (1540)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.
Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

* * *

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

MEASURE TO REPEAL ACT

The House resumed from Friday, April 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Whelan that Bill C-30 to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, when this bill to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act was introduced on Friday last I had just reached the point in my remarks at which I said this matter was now under investigation by the fraud squad of the RCMP.

I think I should remind hon. members that the purpose of the bill before us is to repeal a statute which has been on the books since 1939. It was an act devised to help farm families get through the winter in the years of drought by giving them a small payment, up to \$800 a farm, which was just enough to pay for the groceries, to pay the taxes, and perhaps cover other incidental expenses incurred during the winter. This legislation served the country very well.

Prairie Farm Assistance Act

Unfortunately, in the course of time the PFAA organization became one of the main weapons in the arsenal of a political machine known as "the Gardiner machine."

● (1550)

The technique was that when in a year of drought PFAA had to hire staff to inspect each of the farms that had made application for payments under the act. These field men, as they were called, were hired on a political basis, and it was so easy to move from hiring friends of the party in power into a situation where you began to play games with the farmers respecting which classification they were put into regarding their claims for help and relief under this act.

This type of political machine reached such a level of interference in the economic and political lives of the western farmers that it has been written up in many places. I can recall the Meisal study on this in the *Queen's Quarterly* many years ago describing the Gardiner machine as a parallel to Tammany Hall of New York City, which was over 100 years old. More recently a book has been written called "Prairie Liberalism". This book by Smith, which has recently come into the Library, describes in very intellectual and prosaic language the building up of this political machine in which the power of the party in office was used to persuade or to force farmers into supporting the Liberal party.

One of the great reasons for alienation on the prairies was not only the preponderance of members of parliament from the central provinces but the fact that, when the legislation was passed and put into effect, in deciding how much money would be paid out of the fund in times of great duress on the prairies, pressure was put on individual farmers to declare their allegiance to the party in power. The technique, or the principle, used by this machine was a very elementary and brutal one. It was that of fear or inducement. If they could not induce you by offers of higher returns to support the Liberal party, then the full pressure of fear was applied to you. By fear, I mean statements like, "If you don't do what we think you should, you and all your relatives will lose all chance of access to better positions in society."

This has all been documented, and I can speak with personal knowledge of it. Before you could get to be a teacher in the province of Saskatchewan, if you applied to become a teacher at a normal school you had to have a signed statement from the Liberal MLA that you were worthy of that particular position in society. If you wanted to become a member of the secretaries of municipalities organization, for example, so you could become a secretary to a municipality, an ordinary clerical or administrative job, you had to have verification that you were a member in good standing, and have the support of the local MLA. I happened to grow up under that regime and, not only because of my Irish background but, because of the very immorality of that system, I have been an opponent of this sort of thing all my life. I do not care which political party does it, this sort of thing has to be opposed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!