

I have no malice or forethought, but I would say that if this type of information and news has been spread in western Canada, as it has, according to the report and according to the record, and I think the report is correct, then I think the individuals who made these statements should have the opportunity of substantiating those statements or withdrawing them.

I think it is of interest to us western farmers that one or other of those things should be done if we are going to have a future in this country in which we can operate in the best interest of the grain organizations and in the best interest of the farmers of western Canada.

I do not want to feel that we have been working hard all of our times in the interest of the western farmers and then have it destroyed in one statement by an individual, unless he is prepared to substantiate it or to withdraw it. That is the idea I leave with the committee now.

Mr. JOHNSON (*Kindersley*): Mr. Chairman, on a question of information, is it the general practice at the conclusion of the report for those who have not said much during the enquiry to make up for it at the end, or is it the general practice for everyone to make statements of his own opinion?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think you seriously expect an answer from the chairman on that question. Anybody else?

Mr. McLEOD: I am more or less a novice in this committee. Are we going to bring in any resolutions or any suggestions, or is this just an inquest into the grain business?

The CHAIRMAN: We were instructed to review the annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners and the annual report of the Canadian Wheat Board; and once we have completed all our evidence, we will meet and discuss what we will report to the House.

Mr. McLEOD: And there is nothing else referred to the committee except the grain business?

The CHAIRMAN: So far, no. But next week we will take up leguminous crops.

Mr. McLEOD: But there are other areas in Canada besides the prairie provinces.

Right Hon. Mr. HOWE: In past years we have considered different matters. Two years ago it was livestock which was the controversial problem at that period. But as a matter of routine we do, every year, refer the report of the Wheat Board and the Board of Grain Commissioners to this committee for study and report, and that has been done this year. It happens to be the only business that has been referred to us by parliament. But we have had other years and other problems.

The CHAIRMAN: Parliament could refer anything that has to do with agriculture if it so chooses. Does that answer your problems.

Mr. ARGUE: I did make the statement on the basis of the evidence we had that the board was, in my opinion, incompetent and inefficient and I do not intend to change any statement I made unless such a statement is unparliamentary and not in accordance with the rules of the House. I think that the various newspaper reports that have appeared in western Canada can scarcely be taken as what I said. What I said and what every member of this committee has said will be and is part of the record of this committee.

It was recommended by this committee a year ago that this committee study the Canada Grain Act. We have been studying so far the annual report of the Canadian Wheat Board and the annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners. We have had in our study of that annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners some reference made at times to different parts of the Canada Grain Act, but I suggest we have not done a thorough study of the