

Mr. JUTRAS: Isn't Mr. Wright putting the cart before the horse? Did he not get started on this on the assumption that his other motion would have carried? That being the case then there would have been some point to what you have said, that this wheat board would automatically go in.

Mr. WRIGHT: I understand that this committee did consider the matter of making a recommendation. As a matter of fact, it had already made such a recommendation.

Mr. JUTRAS: Yes, and you had discussed the inclusion of the wheat board on the basis of it as it is now.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know that there is anything wrong in that.

Mr. JUTRAS: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I haven't finished. I do not see that there is very much more that you gain.

Mr. WRIGHT: There is the gain that we would have them in that section of this Act dealing with crown corporations, if there was any advantage in that.

Mr. JUTRAS: Then what are you referring to now?

Mr. WRIGHT: I would say there was no objection to having the wheat board included, I think, but this section of this bill with regard to crown corporations does provide some check and I think that the wheat board should be included.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Wright's point is well taken, but whether it should be included or not is a matter of policy. That there would be an advantage to control in crown corporations—to have them in the Act—I would agree with him, but whether it is advisable in the case of the wheat board is another thing.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Might I ask whether the minister would say if he sees any objection to including that, to accepting Mr. Wright's motion?

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: It does not fit in the pattern of these sections 80 and 81 which deal with the payment over of surplus amounts; for example subsection (2) of 81:

The Minister of Finance may, with the concurrence of the appropriate minister, direct a corporation to pay all or any part of the money of the corporation to the Receiver General to be placed to the credit of a special account in the consolidated revenue fund in the name of the corporation, and the Minister of Finance may pay out, for the purposes of the corporation, or repay to the corporation, all or any part of the money in the special account.

Then we can direct these crown corporations to pay over any money which we think is in excess of what they need, to pay it into the consolidated revenue fund. That does not fit into the picture of the Canadian Wheat Board whose assets are not public moneys at all.

Mr. WRIGHT: Well, if they build up too big a surplus you might decide to pay it back to us.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: We might decide to pay it back, yes.

Mr. WRIGHT: We will have to take a chance on that. Then there is this Price Support Board, the Agricultural Products Board which is being set up under the Agricultural Products Act. I suppose that would be included in one of these schedules when it passes, the Agricultural Products Board set-up.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Might I ask Mr. Wright if he does not think this case, of the wheat board, is somewhat in between; that it is susceptible of different treatment from what it is getting now; but, as the minister says, it does not seem to fit in with these other crown corporations.

Mr. WRIGHT: I would like to ask the minister if the wheat board has objected to being placed in this list?