

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

Board of Grain Commissioners has its headquarters in Winnipeg, and Winnipeg is not considered as an eastern Canadian city. In fact, Winnipeg is considered as a central Canadian city, where the wheat and grain needed in eastern and western Canada is produced.

[English]

Mr. Churchill: Would the hon. member permit a question?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Certainly.

[English]

Mr. Churchill: Just so that there may be no more confusion than the hon. member has already raised, may I point out that I never suggested Winnipeg should be the headquarters of this board, as the hon. member has just said.

Mr. Caouette: No. I said that Winnipeg is already the centre of the corn exchange in Canada. We do not want Winnipeg as a grain distributor in Canada; we want it to be somewhere else. We are against centralization and the hon. member is in favour of centralization.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, we do not want Winnipeg to keep everything, namely the production and distribution of feed grains; other places should be suggested, but the member for Winnipeg South Centre mentions no other town but Winnipeg to ensure the distribution or control of the grains which come to us from the Canadian mid-west.

Mr. Chairman, this bill must increasingly make it possible for the people in eastern Canada to take advantage of and to benefit from the production of grain in our country.

Now, we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, have asked, on many occasions, that feed grains be stored in eastern Canada, in our province of Quebec, in Ontario, in order to assist the eastern farmers. This clause 19 will help as long as there are no middlemen to take away from the farmers in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, the profits they need. We do not object to this Bill No. C-218, as long as it meets and follows up efficiently the objects set forth, the admitted purposes contained in this legislation.

The farmers from the Quebec district, from the constituencies of Champlain and of Trois-Rivi res, from my district, from the

lower St. Lawrence region, from Bellechasse, including those from Ontario, will profit from this legislation. But if middlemen, for instance, should seek to prevent farmers from deriving such benefits, then, Mr. Chairman, we shall take a strong stand and we will take to task the minister who is responsible for this legislation. But until then, we are ready to support Bill No. C-218, provided our farmers profit thereby.

• (9:20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to delay the deliberations of the committee and I hasten to apologize to my friends in the Liberal party for keeping them from other activities. However, in seconding the amendment—

An hon. Member: When is your leadership convention?

Mr. Winkler: We don't forget the past. A few of you who have not been here too long do not bother me. I wish to reply to the hon. member who has just taken his seat in relation to his remarks about the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, and the question of playing politics. I wonder who is playing politics, when the terms of this bill are as vague as they are.

I think we should consider the national capital as the headquarters of the proposed body. I notice that the Minister of Agriculture has lately realized the importance of this argument in relation to the milk industry, and will do something about it next year. We do not consider Ottawa as part of any province, but as the national capital.

The hon. member for Villeneuve said the bill will benefit Ontario, Quebec and other parts of eastern Canada. That is quite true. My own constituency may benefit from it and therefore I might request that the headquarters of the body be located there. However I think the most central spot would be the national capital. I have seconded the amendment and I hope the minister will accept it.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Since the minister has drawn a comparison between the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board and of the proposed feed board, I would like to draw to his attention that the operations of the Wheat Board are entirely financed by the producers of grain in western Canada, and the operations of the feed board are going to be financed by the taxpayers of Canada at large.