

Government Orders

MOTIONS IN AMENDMENT

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): (a) no; (ii) the CBC did not bid for any of the 1994 World Cup soccer games because its summer schedule was already very heavily committed to sports, particularly the 100 hours of coverage from the Victoria Commonwealth Games; (b) at this point it is too early for such a decision.

[English]

The Deputy Speaker: The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

Mr. Milliken: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

* * *

• (1525)

MOTION FOR PAPERS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I ask that the notice of motion for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

The Deputy Speaker: The parliamentary secretary requests that the notice of motion be allowed to stand. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-50, an act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, as reported (with amendments) from a committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Deputy Speaker: Here is the Speaker's ruling on Bill C-50. Five motions in amendment are listed in the Notice Paper at the report stage of Bill C-50, an Act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

[English]

Motions Nos. 1, 4 and 5 will be grouped for debate and voted on separately. Motions Nos. 2 and 3 will be debated and voted on separately.

[Translation]

I will now put Motions Nos. 1, 4 and 5 to the House.

Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ) moved:

That Bill C-50, in Clause 2, be amended by adding after line 10, on page 2, the following:

"(1.1) The Board shall recommend to the Governor in Council a rate to be fixed for deductions pursuant to subsection (1) after consultation with persons or organizations that in the opinion of the Board represent the holders of certificates and the Governor in Council shall take into consideration the recommendation of the Board in fixing a rate for deductions pursuant to subsection (1)."

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.) moved:

That Bill C-50, in Clause 2, be amended by replacing lines 43 to 46, on page 3, with the following:

"by giving notice in the application for a permit book for the period that no deduction should be made for the period."

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie, NDP) moved:

That Bill C-50, in Clause 2, be amended by replacing lines 14 to 19, on page 4, with the following:

"33.5 A deduction fixed by the Governor in Council shall apply at the same rate to all holders of certificates in the designated area."

Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the two amendments that we propose regarding Bill C-50, an Act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, are cautionary measures. Indeed, some protection must be provided to agricultural producers.

The purpose of the bill is to allow the Canadian Wheat Board to make deductions from wheat and barley producers' final payment cheques. The purpose of these deductions, or check offs, is to finance plant breeding research. Contributions will be made on a voluntary basis.

Since the bill meets the expectations of western producers, we can only applaud this initiative which imparts a responsibility to agricultural producers. However, some provisions deserve a closer look and we should even be prepared to amend those if need be. This is the case with the provision concerning check offs for research.

• (1530)

The initial provision provides that the Canadian Wheat Board shall, with the approval of the Governor in Council and at such rate as is fixed by him, make the deduction. The danger with this provision is that the Governor in Council may unnecessarily increase the deduction and reduce the federal government's own research budget, thus forcing producers to shoulder a heavier burden. In that case, agricultural producers would have to make a greater contribution to research funding.

Based on the original rate, that is 40 cents on each tonne of barley sold and 20 cents on each ton of wheat sold, and based on the assumption that 90 per cent of farmers will voluntarily participate in this funding scheme to promote research and development, contributions should total \$4.5 million.