

Feed Grain

mentary. For me, I do not accept to see the speeches of the Social Credit members termed as clownery.

I think we have—

Mr. Boulanger: There is nothing unparliamentary about that!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, may I go on with my question of privilege. I would not want the Canadian people to have the impression that the members of this House, in the exercise of their duties, act like clowns. They act as members responsible to the Canadian Parliament, to the people, and I would request the Chair to ask the hon. member for Mercier to please withdraw this unparliamentary expression of "clownery" attached to members as respectable as any other member in this House. I therefore request a decision from the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) is asking the Chair. Order, please. If hon. members will kindly let the Chair decide and not take the decision themselves, the hon. member for Bellechasse is raising a question of privilege regarding certain comments made by the hon. member for Mercier.

Nevertheless, I am not too anxious to accept the invitation extended by the hon. member for Bellechasse. This in fact is an invitation extended to the Chair asking to pass judgment on the comments of the hon. member for Mercier. The words used by the hon. member without necessarily being those one hears in the great British parliamentarism, or its way of saying things, do not have anything anti-parliamentary. I do not think his words have attacked the reputation of any member, I do not think his remarks, at least those I have heard, have reflected on the frankness of hon. members. It is a matter of appreciation. If the hon. member for Bellechasse wants to give the Chair an opportunity to review the proceedings of tonight's debate tomorrow, and if he himself deems it appropriate to raise that question again on tomorrow, he can do it when orders of the day are called.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I accept your decision, but do you allow me to think that what he might have attributed to us can be thought of them?

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Speaker, I raise the question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Mercier on a question of privilege.

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Speaker, all I have to say on this question of privilege is as I have been in this House since 1962, I have heard the Leader of the Social Credit Party (Mr. Caouette) and all the members of the same party using at any time the word "bouffon" or "bouffonnerie" and even others terms. I wonder why my good friend the hon. member for Bellechasse tries to put a question of privilege about this by pretending that it is not an anti-parliamentary expression, since I heard his leader using it many times.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. In view of this late hour I shall invite the hon. members to go back to the main issue

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

of the debate. As it is very late, it may be easy to have exchanges under a question of privilege or a point of order but as there are a few more members who wish to take the floor to express their views concerning the problem of grain, this matter which has been so well presented by the hon. member for Bellechasse, I hope that these members as the hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Pinard) will have the opportunity to take the floor and to express their views before breakfast tomorrow morning. The hon. member for Drummond.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, at 3:25 a.m. I shall be very very brief. I wish first to congratulate the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) for having moved this motion. I do not doubt his sincerity, on the contrary, but what surprised me in this debate is that we have accomplished the miracle to say in seven hours and 25 minutes what the Prime Minister said in less than a minute in an answer to a question put during the oral question period yesterday afternoon.

I am referring to the public interest which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) emphasized when he spoke of the interest of the farmers and consumers, as opposed to the right to strike. While being very conscious of the public interest demonstrated very ably during the many interventions in this debate, I hope that, as a result, the strikers, first of all, will get the message and stop interfering with the movement of feed grains; otherwise, I am convinced the government, as it usually does, will assume its responsibilities if the situation continues to deteriorate.

In closing, I stress the fact that unfortunately some tried through this debate to enhance their personal prestige instead of considering the public interest, simply and solely, as they should have.

Mr. Denis Ethier (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to take part in this debate tonight and I would have preferred to let all the Quebec members speak, since this is a problem that concerns mainly the Quebec people. However, since the Opposition has so mischievously attacked my Liberal colleagues from Quebec, I deemed it my duty, as an Ontario member, to take part in the debate so as to tell the Canadian people what the Quebec Liberal members are doing for agriculture.

First of all, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) for giving us this opportunity to discuss publicly what my colleagues from Quebec as well as all of us discuss in caucus, namely the farmer's problems, to settle this dispute, to correct this unfortunate situation existing in Quebec since the beginning of the longshoremen's strike.

The hon. members from Quebec, my Liberal colleagues have again and again, since the beginning of this conflict made representations to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) to give the assurance to the Quebec producers that they would not be deprived of the supplies needed for their poultry and their cattle. I believe those representations were fruitful, considering this strike situation that we all regret. I repeat that their representations were fruitful for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (M. Ouellet) ably explained at the beginning of