

Feed Grain

cutting interventions in the House of Commons or elsewhere.

I think those who somewhat know us realize that we have some sort of lobbying methods which may be more important and more efficient within the framework of a party, and which consist of regular meetings with the ministers concerned and official and often unofficial representations to them, which should not necessarily be identified with those long speeches intended, as my friends opposite have often said, "to be on the record".

That is not our line, and I would invite my friends on the other side to stop telling liberal members from Quebec that we do not speak up enough in the House. I respect them enough to respect their way of doing things and stepping in in due time, and I hope they will show their respect for our personality which leads us to act by using the means we think most efficient in the way we think most appropriate in the interest of our constituents and in the interest of the Quebec people as a whole.

Madam Speaker, it should no doubt be recognized that our debate tonight represents an extremely important step in the dispute we have been discussing for several hours.

I also think that the tribute we paid to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) seconded by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), was well deserved. I think the hon. member for Bellechasse in particular, and even my friend from Joliette with some reservations, on the whole made interesting points, but I think what we should keep in mind tonight at this late hour and as this debate drives to a close, is the fact that we should understand that all parties represented here in the House of Commons should unite to understand how important it is to make the government realize that it is urgent not to consider in detail the situation but to take a decision.

I think that, as a government member, it is my duty to endorse the action that will be taken by the minister concerned. On that point, I trust him entirely, and I urge him not only to consider the emergency of the situation but also to take action since, in my opinion, the situation has reached a degree which warrants government intervention. Even though I respect, as most members do, the workers' right to strike, even though I accept straight away that collective bargaining formula, I think public interest demands, at the present time, that the government take the matter into its own hands and take the action requested by the circumstances and which, to my opinion, justifies the drafting and tabling of special legislation. I think we must not dodge the issue. It is of course easy to try to protect altogether the worker, the union, the government and the opposition and to adopt a middle of the road solution. But I think that period is over with, and, as a government member, I think the representations submitted to the Minister of Agriculture are likely to indicate to him that the problem has reached such a point as to warrant government action, and I am convinced that hon. members opposite will be the first to support a legislation designed to enable Quebec farmers to get supplies, as they have the right to do, in order to distribute to Quebec consumers the food they need for their families.

An hon. Member: It is very important.

[Mr. Marceau.]

Mr. Marceau: Madam Speaker, I think that . . . Oh, I am sorry, things are changing so quickly, Mr. Speaker; I think, looking at all of us here tonight, at this time when both hands of the clock are meeting, that it would perhaps be the time for all parties to join together. It may be the time for each of us, irrespective of the political party we belong to, of our nationality, of our cultures or language, to understand that the situation the Quebec farmers are now requiring that we join together and, that in a movement of collective solidarity, we tell the Minister of Agriculture that we trust him, that we urge him to take immediate and concrete action to meet the needs of Quebec farmers and at the same time of the Canadian people who is looking at our government, who trusts them and will continue to trust them and to support them for the action they will take hopefully very soon.

● (0210)

[English]

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, leave has been granted to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) to move the adjournment of this House, pursuant to Standing Order 26, for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the continuing longshoremen's strike in the ports of Quebec City, Trois-Rivières and Montreal which prevents millers from getting the feed grain supplies normally required for animal feed, and endangers the life of thousands of animals.

May I commend the hon. member for Bellechasse and the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) for bringing in such a timely motion, and may I commend all hon. members who have, and are, participating in the debate at this late hour. I see the time is now 2.15 a.m., and after listening to the debate for some 6 hours and 15 minutes I feel somewhat like the man who married a widow who had eight children. Everything that had to be said has been said, and everything that had to be done has been done—by the opposition side only. We have urged this government to action, but now all we can do is hope that the Liberal administration will react in a positive way to the extent that these ills will be cured with regard to the crippling situation we have now in Quebec.

Mr. Béchar: You did not hear the last speaker.

Mr. Elzinga: The hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack) attempted to gather opinions for some individuals from the Quebec region on this depressing problem. One individual he questioned appeared before the Standing Committee on Agriculture on behalf of the Pork Council of Canada. I should like to relate to the House the opposition which the hon. member met from the Liberal members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. It was their feeling that they did not have to discuss this pressing problem. This is just another example of the Liberal arrogance we have been experiencing and it is typical of their approach to the serious problems facing us as a nation.

The reason we enjoy our liberty now is that in the past people were allowed to speak out. People had enough brains to reject what was false and to hold on to the truth. I submit that that should be the basis of our public policy