

Speaking for the Conservative Party, the senator demanded that the government freeze the rates as of January 1, 1984, right in the middle of the 1983-84 crop year, a rate under \$6 a tonne freeze until July 31, 1986. That was a real freeze. It would have saved farmers many millions of dollars. I am sure it caused many of our poor western farmers to be fooled and they voted Conservative as a result of it in September 1984.

They were deceived. When they see this bill they will recognize it as a cynical, political trick and they will be outraged.

Honourable senators, I am afraid this is part of a pattern that is developing in regard to the handling of problems facing Canadian farmers by this Conservative government. There are heavy cuts in the budget of the Department of Agriculture, higher beef imports allowed into Canada hurting our national beef industry, American tariffs against Canadian pork with little or no help from the federal government and now broken promises to our grain farmers.

Despite its flaws and deception, I will support Bill C-44 because it does contain some small help for the farmers, and I hope that they will be able to encourage you to convince your cohorts on the other side to keep their promises and go the rest of the way.

**Senator Walker:** Hallelujah!

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I am sure that we have all enjoyed the effective speech given by Senator Steuart. In my judgment there should have been an additional amendment to this bill. A presentation was made on behalf of the three prairie pools to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee asking for an amendment which, if agreed to, would have allowed the rules that apply to evidence being taken in a railway application for a variable rate to be maintained before the Western Grain Transportation Board. There was an application by the CNR in recent months to provide certain variable rates applying in Saskatoon and North Battleford. As I understand it, the rules of evidence in effect at that time were that the CNR had to justify this variable rate that went into effect as being of financial benefit to the CNR.

When they were challenged by the pools and others to produce evidence of their financial position, they refused and dropped the case. The pools felt that that rule should have been kept in place rather than being allowed to lapse, at least until the time the review was in with regard to the Western Grain Stabilization Act, and that was a suggested amendment that I thought should have been in the act.

I believe that variable rates are something that are feared by small communities, by people along the branch lines and by producers who own their own elevator system. There are many good aspects to this bill. The window dressing that is there I think is pretty obvious, but for the record I wanted to mention that that was an amendment I would like to have seen in the bill.

**Senator Barootes:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, if the Honourable Senator Barootes speaks now his speech will

[Senator Steuart.]

have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

**Hon. Ian Sinclair:** In light of the hour, we do not need to hear any more about grain. Once you start, you could go on for hours.

**Senator Barootes:** Honourable senators, I am closing the debate with this remark: I am so pleased that Senator Steuart started out by saying that he supports the bill because when he got into the body of his remarks, I guessed that this was the most dastardly thing that had ever been perpetrated on the farmers of western Canada and, in fact, as we all know, it is a very good thing.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government),** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b), moved that the bill be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

### JUDGES ACT

#### BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore** informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-61, to amend the Judges Act.

Bill read first time.

#### SECOND READING

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government),** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), moved that the bill be read the second time now.

● (2340)

He said: Honourable senators, I know that this bill is very close to your hearts and that you want me to go into great detail at this hour. Bill C-61 amends a number of statutes affecting the judiciary. It is designed to bring federal legislation into conformity with that of the provinces, and to make certain changes to the Federal Court of Canada, the Court Martial Appeal Court and the Pension Appeals Board.

First, the amendments affecting the Federal Court of Canada. This bill provides for an increase of one position for the Federal Court of Appeal and two positions for the Trial Division. In 1983, Parliament approved the addition of four