

Business of the House

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): It being five o'clock, shall I rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, may I ask for unanimous consent of the house to forgo private members hour, so that we can revert to the committee stage of this bill? I have some indication it may be possible to conclude it before six o'clock.

Mr. Knowles: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): It is agreed that private members hour be suspended?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): The house will now revert to government business.

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK FEED BOARD**ASSISTANCE IN STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS**

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-218, to provide assistance to livestock feeders in eastern Canada and British Columbia—Mr. Sauvé—Mr. Richard in the Chair.

On clause 6—*Powers*.

Mr. McQuaid: I do not like to be stubborn about this question of paragraph (j) of section 6, but it is of considerable importance. I suggest the minister either consent to allowing clause 6 to stand until he has secured advice from his legal counsel, or perhaps the situation could be corrected if the minister would agree, when we come to consider clause 9 (1), to inserting the words, "or as an agent or on behalf of any minister of the crown". Clause 9 would then read:

The board is, for all purposes of this act, an agent of Her Majesty, and its powers under this act may be exercised only as an agent of Her Majesty or as an agent for or on behalf of any minister of the crown.

Mr. Sauvé: I would be ready to accept such an amendment when we come to clause 9.

Clause agreed to.

[Mr. Danforth.]

On clause 7—*Duties*.

Mr. Herridge: This is a very interesting clause, Mr. Chairman, particularly paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d). These paragraphs read in part as follows:

(a) to make a continuing study of feed grain requirements in eastern Canada and British Columbia—

(b) to make recommendations to the minister with respect to requirements for additional feed grain storage—

(c) generally, to advise the government on all matters pertaining to the stabilization—

(d) to the greatest possible extent consistent with its objectives, to consult and co-operate with all departments, branches—

And so on. Would the minister mind telling the house the procedures which he contemplates would be used under these four paragraphs (a) to (d)? Could he give us some idea of the mechanics contemplated in the operation of this clause?

Mr. Sauvé: Under the existing regulations we are already doing much of this work. There is always research being conducted to examine the need for feed grain. In so far as storage is concerned, we have continuous discussions with the Wheat Board, the Board of Grain Commissioners, the Department of Transport and the National Harbours Board concerning storage facilities. With regard to paragraph (c), we have done so many studies we are about in a position to announce some interesting proposals. The administrator of feed grains has always had excellent relations with all provincial departments, so there is nothing new here. We are putting it in the law because there was no law governing the feed grain administration. This only clarifies what we were doing under the existing system.

Mr. Pugh: There is a reference to the equalization of feed grain prices to livestock feeders. Could the minister explain how far that goes? Does it apply, for instance, to feed lots within British Columbia only, or is there to be equalization of feed lot purchases in Alberta with those in British Columbia?

Mr. Sauvé: No, the bill applies to a certain part of British Columbia, Ontario and other provinces. The reference is to equalization in terms of the situation in the province or in each of the provinces. So far, the policy has been to try to pay the transportation costs of grain from Port Arthur to eastern Canada,