

Grain

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): You had your chance.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I do not know if we will resume the bill on public works later or if we will take up the bill of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner).

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I have not very much more.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Then there is a bill under external affairs. Those are the bills we are going to proceed with.

Mr. Drew: Without extending the debate, I hope the doubt the minister has expressed as to whether we may be discussing this amendment to the Public Works Act later suggests the possibility that he is going to withdraw the bill. I would remind him that it will be only a short time until next session, when full consideration can be given to it.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): In all fairness, my intention was to take time to digest all the advice that has been given to me from all quarters of the house. I do not take this bill in a—

An hon. Member: Casual.

Mr. Fournier (Hull):—casual way. I believe it is serious. I have listened to every hon. member, and with the exception of one or two they all dealt with the amendment. A few others straggled around. I could name the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) because what he has said today appears in the *Vancouver Sun*. It caught my eye while he was speaking. His speech came out in Vancouver before he made it here. It is all there.

Mr. Hodgson: He is doing the same thing as the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton).

Mr. Green: What about the bill?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I wish to have the advantage of replying. I want to think it over and I should like hon. members to think it over.

Mr. Fulton: You should have thought it over before you introduced the bill.

An hon. Member: Think it over until 1952.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I should like hon. members to think about section 39 of the Financial Administration Act, and we will see who gets the powers.

Mr. Knowles: That gives it to the governor in council.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Don't give us that.

On motion of Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood) the debate was adjourned.

At 6.15 p.m. the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

GRAIN

PROVISION FOR SHORT-TERM CREDIT TO PRODUCERS

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the second reading of Bill No. 44, to provide for short-term credit to grain producers in the prairie provinces to meet temporary financial difficulties arising from inability to complete harvesting operations or to make delivery of grain.

Mr. Ross (Souris): Will the minister make a statement now?

Mr. Howe: Yes. In my statement, made on the resolution, I mentioned that this legislation is not a relief measure in the customary sense, but rather is intended as a means of "broadening the base" upon which the banks can make commercial loans to producers. Although the general need for this type of assistance has been diminishing because of the resumption of harvesting in many parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, nevertheless there are still some instances where the need is great and where producers would find it difficult or impossible to obtain the credit they require without this legislation.

In essence, therefore, the bill provides for loans to be made by the banks on a commercial basis to producers who are unable to harvest or to deliver their grain. By producers I mean the persons actually engaged in the production of grain, as distinct from landlords and others having an interest in the proceeds from the sale of the grain. After a loan is made the proceeds of the first grain delivered thereafter are to be applied to the reduction of the loan until the loan is repaid. An endorsement to that effect will be entered in the delivery permit book of the borrower. The aggregate principal amount of all loans is limited to \$20 million. That is the upper limit, and my expectation is that the total of producers' applications will be considerably less than this amount. The government's guarantee to each bank is limited to 25 per cent of the aggregate principal amount loaned by that bank.

The bill provides that the maximum loan to any borrower may be \$1,000. This maximum is subject to two qualifications. The first proviso is that if the value of the grain the borrower expects to deliver before the end