

### *Metric System*

Many people thought there would be an evident change of policy with reference to the western farmer once one of the most well known western farmers got into the government. I often hear the hon. member for Crowfoot being sung about, in the famous song "Them Boots was made for Walking." He walked over to the other side into the cabinet.

The farmers of western Canada, the farmers of eastern Canada, those who grow wheat, those who grow barley, those who raise beef on the hoof, those who raise poultry, those who raise chickens, those who raise ducks, those who raise pork, and those who raise pigs, are waiting to see what change there will be in government policy.

Will the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) finally be brought to his knees? Will the minister responsible for the wheat board be brought to his knees as well? They were both on their knees before the hon. member for Crowfoot crossed, praying that he would not cross. Will they be brought to their knees again by the hon. member for Crowfoot and have a little humanity introduced into their policies as well as a little consideration for the western farmer who made this country what it is?

One of the great representatives, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), is on this very day in London, England. While he is gone they are attempting to sneak this through the House. I wish he were here tonight with his eloquence. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Goodale) misses the right hon. member for Prince Albert in view of the attention he paid him a week or two ago in a debate in this House.

We are all waiting to see what the Minister without Portfolio will announce in connection with this bill. Is he going to let us talk until 10.15 before he gets to his feet to announce that while the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has been away there has been a dramatic coup, we have a new Prime Minister, and the metric bill is being withdrawn? Is that what is going to happen?

The Prime Minister of the Seychelles went to the Commonwealth Conference in London. Lo and behold, two or three days later he was no longer the prime minister of the Seychelles. He did not have a "Sey" and he did not have a "chelles". He is out in the cold. Could the same thing happen to the right hon. member for Mount Royal? Could he be removed while in London at this Commonwealth Conference? Will the Minister without Portfolio carry out his promise to the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark) that there would be a *coup d'état* as soon as the Prime Minister left the country?

We are not interested in the Ontario election tonight. We have another hour and ten minutes to see whether the Minister without Portfolio will announce a dramatic reversal of government policy. Is that why the Minister of Agriculture tonight is somewhere in deepest Ontario hiding? Is that why the minister responsible for the wheat board is not here this evening? Is that the reason why the Minister of Transport is so touchy these days about an ordinary insulting article about him? Is that what is driving him to wild chicanery, using his cabinet

[Mr. Crosbie.]

influence on the newspapers of his fair province? Is that why he is so irritable? Is it because not only his user-pay but the user not knowing what he is going to pay is going to be reversed?

To get back to the bill, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the west is the grain basket of Canada. It is not Newfoundland. We know we cannot compete with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in growing wheat, barley or corn.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Or rape?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Yes, we can compete with rape. We will match them with rape.

**Mrs. Holt:** Rape what?

**Mr. Crosbie:** However, we cannot compete in most other agricultural products.

I also want to mention the fishermen because I am sure they are involved in this diabolical plot. Fish are sold in quintals. What will happen to the quintal? Is the quintal to be tossed aside as though it were an abandoned wife? Is the quintal to be no more, just because a Liberal government in Ottawa has been in office for 30 years, arrogant and drunk with power? Does it intend to slash the quintal away? The quintal has stood us in good stead since 1497 when the first Italian immigrant came to Newfoundland, John Cabot. I want the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Guay) to note that the descendants of Cabot are waiting in Newfoundland for a multicultural policy that will do something for the Cabots.

● (2120)

**An hon. Member:** Does a squid squirt metric?

**Mr. Crosbie:** That is a neat question, Mr. Speaker. What is going to happen to the quintal? What is going to happen to the hundredweight if this vile piece of legislation passes the House tonight? What is going to happen to the fishing industry if this vile piece of legislation passes this House tonight? Hon. members opposite will have a lot to answer for.

I want to point out something else in the bill. I do not want hon. gentlemen to think I have not read the bill. I have read every bill in this book. I spend my nights reading bills.

**An hon. Member:** How about paying them?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** I try to avoid paying them. Let us turn our attention to a very liberal clause in this bill, Clause 4, the gas inspection part of the bill. Every Liberal will be familiar with that. Every Wednesday morning they get injected with a little Liberal gas at the caucus so that they will all say "Hear, hear" and "Hurrah, hurrah" every time they get a new convert to the cabinet. Clause 4 says—listen to this; I do not want any heckling while I am reading these sacred clauses of the legislation.

**Mr. Goodale:** What is a megajoule?