

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

minister has in mind as being the proper function of this advisory committee. The minister can call this body useful but its usefulness would be for something else that the minister has in mind.

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry the hon. member for Macleod left the debate Friday afternoon because we discussed this advisory committee at length at that time. May I ask him a question? Is he satisfied with the advisory committee which was set up to assist the Canadian Wheat Board?

Mr. Kindt: The committee which was established, to which the minister refers consists of representatives who take an active part in performing their duties which are not limited to matters referred to them. They can give advice on any matters, not only those that are referred to them. I wish the minister would look at the Canadian Wheat Board Act and read the functions of the advisory committee which is working in conjunction with the Wheat Board.

Mr. Stewart: I think perhaps the hon. member for Macleod may not understand the problem that confronts the farmers in the eastern part of Canada.

Mr. Kindt: I know of the problems in the western part of Canada.

Mr. Stewart: I am speaking of the areas to which this board's work will apply most directly. Our farmers and farmers' organizations have been very concerned about the administration of the prevailing regulations. They have asked many questions about it. As I understand the purpose of the provisions in this bill regarding the advisory committee, it is to assure that there will be a formalized two-way means of communication between these agricultural groups and the board. I think it is important in relation to this very complicated matter that any uncertainty and any suspicion that our farmers may have should be eliminated as soon as possible, that as much information as possible should be disseminated among the people for whose advantage this bill is being enacted. I do not think the farmers of eastern Canada, from whose organizations the advisory committee will be drawn, really deserve the appellation, yes-men. I suspect that would not be true of farmers in western Canada either. I think this advisory committee is a necessary link between those who will be served by the board and the board itself. If the hon. member for Macleod had been doing what I have

[Mr. Kindt.]

done, which was to seek information on a very complicated matter on which I have little or no professional competence, I think he would now understand why this advisory committee is so attractive and, indeed, so necessary.

Mr. Kindt: May I ask the hon. member what he would do if problems came up that needed the immediate attention of the advisory committee but were not referred to it by the board? The committee would then have no power whatsoever even to bring those matters to the attention of the board. The advisory committee is supposed to grapple with problems on which decisions will be made by the board which they will only have to rubberstamp for the benefit of the consumers and producers. If they can only handle those matters that are referred to them, I do not see how this body can function in seeking solutions to the problems of which the hon. member spoke. The hon. member said that there are lots of problems in his area which he would like to see solved by this body and yet anyone connected with farming or feeding would have no power whatsoever to say to this committee: "Will you recommend this? Will you bring this matter to the attention of the board? Will the committee consider bringing in a recommendation to the board?" He would not be permitted to do it. Therefore, how will this body function to meet the problems the hon. member mentioned and to meet the problems of the farmers of western Canada?

Mr. Baldwin: May I ask the hon. member for Macleod a question? I wonder whether the hon. member could not be brought to see the use of this board, having in mind the erratic and peripatetic perambulations of this government and that the more advice they can get the better off they are, consequently, the more advisory boards there are to assist this government, the more hope we have that it will get on to the main stream of the business of the house.

Mr. Kindt: I shall be glad to concur in what the hon. member has said. I think there would be some merit in this proposal if it were only on that basis that we were giving it consideration.

Mr. Stewart: May I deal with the penultimate hon. member's question by asking a question addressed to the minister? The