

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

headquarters, after consultation with the interested parties, in the centre of the trade involved. It is no fault of Ottawa that the centre of the feed grain trade is not Ottawa.

Mr. Churchill: The minister has demonstrated a lack of interest and knowledge on the part of the Liberal party with regard to western Canada. He is now suggesting that the Canadian Wheat Board should be transferred from the city of Winnipeg. It is the type of suggestion which comes from the members of the Liberal party, and explains in part their lack of support out on the prairies.

I have already said that the analogy with the Wheat Board is not at all similar to this situation. The Wheat Board deals with the great producing area in western Canada, the prairie provinces, that provides so much for our external trade and our balance of payments, something which this country needs. Winnipeg is very close to the producers, and there is a long history of activity in that city. There were other organizations which dealt with the grain trade before the government moved in to assist.

We are not being told by the minister, Mr. Chairman, that some city or other in eastern Canada will be more closely associated than another with feed grain. If this is the case, why did the minister not set this out in the original bill? He has left it wide open, and that is why I raised objection. He has in the bill "any city in eastern Canada". Why did he not name the city? Surely the cabinet can make up its mind, without changing it and then making it up again—or have someone write out a resignation? That is what I was after. Why leave the bill in this unfinished condition, when it would be a simple matter to insert whatever city the cabinet has decided upon? Leaving it wide open and uncertain is just another demonstration of the incompetence of the present government.

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I really regret that the hon. member was not here this afternoon or Friday when we received much good advice from opposition members to the effect that we should not set up this board without consulting the interested parties. It is precisely because we do want to consult the interested parties that we have drafted the clause in this way. Either we are doing the right thing in consulting people, or we are not. I do not think the hon. member would like us not to seek the advice of the people who would benefit from this legislation. We

could not do so before, because the bill had not been passed. When it is passed we have the authority vested in the governor in council to establish regulations as outlined in clause 19. This is the democratic process, and I am surprised that my hon. friend does not recognize this in the intentions of the government in proposing this kind of legislation.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to deal with the minister's argument, but I would ask him to withdraw his remark that I was not here on Friday or this afternoon. I have been here and I would challenge the minister to equal my attendance in this chamber. I was not absent in some secret room when a vote was going on the other night, as were 15 members of the Liberal party.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. I listened very carefully to the minister's explanation, which I thought was quite logical and reasonable. I think that what he intends to do is thoroughly sound from a democratic point of view.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, having listened to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) ask the minister to inform the house immediately as to where in eastern Canada the board is to set up its head office, I believe the member for Winnipeg South Centre only wants to play politics, as is customary with him.

This does not mean that I support entirely the minister's statement concerning clause 19 of Bill No. C-218, which reads as follows:

The Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) prescribing, with respect to payments related to the cost of feed grain storage and with respect to payments related to the cost of feed grain transportation, the classes of persons to whom and the terms and conditions on which such payments may be made and the rate of such payments within each of such areas within eastern Canada and British Columbia as may be prescribed by the regulations;

(c) designating

(i) any area in Ontario lying west of the meridian passing through the eastern boundary of the city of Port Arthur to be part of eastern Canada;

● (9:10 p.m.)

Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, how many of the farmers in the Champlain electoral district will understand that designation of eastern Canada as any region lying west of the meridian passing through the eastern boundary of the city of Port Arthur? The