

Feed Grain

or seeking to revolt, for what is being done here tonight is of no help for agriculture.

I will therefore conclude, Mr. Speaker, by asking the hon. member for Joliette to convince the Progressive Conservative members to give their consent for the Canadian Wheat Board, which their predecessors established in 1929, to be more generous, since we are presently experiencing difficulties in getting a bit of Western grains, about ten million bushels, for Eastern Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is rather late in the night, and I feel we should go and get some rest.

● (0310)

Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) has just said—

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Bellechasse on a point of order.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): May I ask the Chair if I could put a question to the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Côté) who has just completed his speech, for I would like to ask him a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have to remind the hon. member that he should ask the hon. member for Richelieu and not the Chair.

Mr. Côté: It is agreed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that I was to address the Chair in order to tell an hon. member something. So, in these circumstances, I would ask the hon. member through you if he agrees that the Canadian Parliament has a very great responsibility with respect to problems which might arise within our society and that it is the duty of members of Parliament, be they on the opposition side or on the government side, to raise those questions and problems when they arise, or under the standing orders of our assembly, in order to focus the attention of the Cabinet on some particular question and that such a way of acting is not unreasonable. Does the hon. member agree with that way of looking at things?

Mr. Côté: I believe I do, Mr. Speaker, I am ready to accept that with some reservations. We should be careful. Considering the very broad jurisdiction of the Canadian Parliament and its administrative procedures, the acts which were passed and the powers some agencies were interested with, when it comes to believing that one is right in trying to urge government to pass bills faster than the acts which were designed by that very Parliament, then I have reservations. That is why I am saying that as members of Parliament we should try not to prove people that we have been strong, that we loved them; crying on the left shoulder knowing that favors may be obtained from the right one, that is what my reservations are about.

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Speaker, the answer just given by my colleague, the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Côté) was a small part of my speech. I should not exceed 20

[Mr. Côté.]

minutes since the mover and his party, the Social Credit of Canada are willing to hear me for about 20 minutes. I will try to interest them and make them understand certain things. I do not know as member for a small town on the island of Montreal, if they wonder why I rise to speak.

First, a few hours ago, I was talking with one of my best friends who is simply a longshoreman, an honest man who has earned his living for 30 years in Montreal harbour and who knows that there has been a debate taking place here since 8 o'clock. The first thing he did was to congratulate the mover, the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), for this emergency debate, and that proves that he is a serious and sincere man. But he told me, a few hours ago, that we should not forget that the speeches we will hear tonight could bring certain of our members to start a small rebellion that there is a more serious conflict than you would think. Then I asked him the reason? I am speaking as a Montrealer, not as a farmer because I do not know agriculture. I do not know if that will please some of my colleagues in my party because that is the opinion of a worker, a longshoreman but expressed so eloquently by my colleague from Richelieu (Mr. Côté). He is afraid that we are preparing an early measure forcing them to return to work. They have been fearing a little for a few hours already. Is it that fear—

● (0320)

I do not have any details to give because there is a part I can tell, and the other does not concern the House.

I will tell you the part that concerns us. When one talks of a friend, of a worker, if one does not have respect for the friendship of a worker who confides anything to you, that is a proof that one does not have any dignity at all.

So the part I want to tell you about a man I did not and I will not name is that he fears the government, and particularly when he refers to the Minister of Agriculture, that the government should proceed too rapidly to reach a decision within a few hours. I answered: There is no question of a few hours.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Boulanger: There is a question of allowing you to use all your rights, all your privileges because your strike is legal and to use all that to defend yourselves. But, on the other hand, we, in the government—I was talking about Parliament then—members both in power and in the Opposition also have a duty to fulfill, that of ensuring that the people of this country are well served. At present, there is no mistake about it, you are depriving farmers of part of their income and also run the risk of depriving the consumer. In a few weeks, if that ever lasts a few weeks, there will be a danger of depriving people of food and by the same token a danger of speculation called the black market of prices, etc.

So, we have a duty to fulfill, and a decision must be made. Our friend from Bellechasse, I agree, was serious. On the other hand, I told my hon. friend the expert from the area of Joliette (Mr. La Salle), that is perhaps less serious. When one thinks that he pretended at one time to be a defender of Quebec, of French Canada, and he left the party because he was badly treated in that party, but he has not yet succeeded to convince anybody of his western