

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

During the taking of the vote:

The Chairman: Order, please. May I request that those hon. members who were not in the chamber when the vote was called step outside, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Amendment Mr. Churchill negatived: Yeas, 43; nays, 85.

The Chairman: Order. I declare the amendment lost. Shall clause 19 carry?

Mr. Danforth: No, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. Members: Filibuster.

Mr. Danforth: This clause outlines regulations, but as yet there is no regulation anywhere in this bill that deals with grievances and the method of handling them. When the board is set up and these provisions are brought into being, the board will have absolute control to buy, sell, transport, store, set rates, set subsidies and designate movements of grain. It will also have the power to designate the storage and agents to buy, sell and handle all the business that is to be found in the movement of eastern feed grain.

Such intrusion into this great industry, in which millions of dollars are involved, cannot take place without working hardships on some segments of the industry. As a matter of fact, if we are to accomplish the very purpose we set out to accomplish in this bill it is very probable that grave financial losses could be incurred by the trade. I hold no particular brief for the trade, but I am justly concerned that anyone who is suffering financial hardship, whose business is impaired in any way, should have a place to which to bring his grievances, in order that he might receive the just and careful consideration to which he is entitled.

It had been my hope that when the amendment was brought in the regulations could be brought under annual review by this house or a standing committee, that this could be the forum to which people could make representation, before which witnesses could be called and the matter could be investigated in depth, and if a hardship was found to exist the necessary steps could be taken to correct the grievance.

This is one of the regulations I am most concerned about, namely that there be some forum which could consider a redress of

[The Chairman.]

grievances, and justice could be done promptly without a delay of many months. I would hope that the minister would not give me the stock answer that representations could be made in the regular way. There are three avenues of approach in this regard. There is the direct approach to the minister, the direct approach to the board that is to be constituted, or perhaps the approach is to the advisory committee that will be set up to advise the board. The various segments of this industry will be very interested in knowing what is the proper approach to take and the one that will take the least possible time. I would hope that the minister could in some detail spell out what he considers to be the proper avenue of approach, in order that such grievances may be redressed correctly, justly and quickly.

Mr. Sauvé: This is an administrative board, Mr. Chairman. Since it is an administrative board, it has the same powers and acts in the same way as other boards. In fact its conditions are similar to those under which the Wheat Board operates. A farmer can appeal against a decision of the Wheat Board, and he will be able to appeal against a decision of this board. If the board surpasses its authority people can, by prerogative writ, take their grievances to the courts.

Mr. Danforth: Am I to understand from the minister's answer that the only redress, the only appeal in respect of hardships that are being brought about if this legislation is passed is recourse by private individuals or corporations to the courts? There must be some approach to parliament or through parliamentary representatives in order to bring about a redress, if such is found to be necessary.

Mr. Sauvé: If the board surpasses the authority given it by this bill, this step could be taken; otherwise—and I discussed this matter last Friday—members of parliament can be made aware of the problems of their constituents. I do not see how this method differs from the normal methods contained in legislation with respect to similar boards.

● (10:00 p.m.)

Clause 19 agreed to.

Mr. Danforth: It is ten o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

Progress reported.