

Canadian Wheat Board Act

I could not help but listen with a great deal of interest to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) as he went back over the history of the Canadian Wheat Board in the 1930's and attempted time after time to rejuvenate—if you want to call it that—the credit given to his party and his government for having increased sales of Canadian wheat.

Mr. Rapp: There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Olson: But what is so amusing about this, Mr. Speaker, is that the Leader of the Opposition has just returned from the west. I do not know whether he was in my constituency, but he was awfully close. He now comes back to the house, and the first major contribution he makes to the debates in this chamber is to repeat a speech that we in this house have heard at least 50 times. The thought that occurred to me was this. I was wondering whether the attempt to perpetuate this illusion that hon. gentlemen try to give the farmers of western Canada is becoming more difficult and the right hon. gentleman is trying to revitalize it a little bit.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The recently self-appointed minister of agriculture has spoken again for Liberalism.

Mr. Olson: It seems to me that this must have bothered the right hon. gentleman after visiting some of the major grain and wheat producing areas of the prairies, because he comes back to this house and gives the same old speech we have all heard about the great things which were done some nine or ten years ago by his government. We have heard that speech made by the hon. members for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton), Provencher (Mr. Jorgenson), Rosthern (Mr. Nasserden), I think by the hon. member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale (Mr. Rapp), the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner), indeed by all of them.

This speech, Mr. Speaker, is the standard speech that is made by every one of them, not only in this House of Commons but in every election campaign during the last ten years. They do not tell us, however, some of the other details that should be told if they want to tell the whole story—and I understood that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to give all of the details. The right hon. gentleman complained about the detail that the minister left out of his speech when he was talking about the Canadian Wheat Board. For example, the fact that the original contract with mainland China was signed three days before

the minister of agriculture got over there to make the announcement; that is one of the details he left out. He also left out the point that while there was an expansion of credit facilities, for which I give the right hon. gentleman and his party full credit, the fact remains that all the mechanism to provide export credits, and so on, had already been set up before his government took office.

Mr. Rapp: But they never used it.

Mr. Olson: It is not quite fair to say they did not use it, because they did. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) was very careful to mention that they had made some kind of deal with Yugoslavia. Actually, I think he could just as well have left out any reference to that five and a half million bushels because the amount is so insignificant. However, these are some of the details that are left out, depending upon whether the speech is being made by someone on this side of the house or on the other side of the house. I think members on both sides should fill in the details for each other, so that we do not go through this performance over and over again.

I hope the right hon. gentleman is now satisfied that he has been able to revive these past glories and can live with them for a while yet; but as I say, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that his trip to the west must have left him feeling that the picture had slipped a little.

Mr. Rapp: You were not in favour of sales to communist countries.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is right; the hon. gentleman opposed sales to communist countries.

Mr. Olson: The hon. gentleman did not oppose sales to communist countries.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes, you did.

Mr. Olson: There may be some validity to the statement that some members of this party did, but do not say that I did, because I did not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman opposed that.

Mr. Olson: The right hon. gentleman had better dig up some proof about that because I take exception to that statement.

Getting back to the subject matter of the bill, Mr. Speaker, on the matter of quotas, as I said at the outset, a fair allocation of the