

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, could I propose something else, namely that we do not stand this clause if we can approve the bill as it stands at the moment. If it is thought necessary to introduce an amendment, we could ask the other place to look into this matter, because they will be considering the bill in the same way as we are and could bring in the necessary amendment.

Mr. Danforth: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the minister, I believe that when we are faced with a controversy such as this we should let the clause stand until the legal department of the government has had adequate opportunity to make the necessary correction. I am very much concerned with another problem in this bill, namely the conflict of interest provincially and federally because of the implications of the bill. In the province of Ontario it was contemplated some two years ago to put commercial corn under a marketing scheme. This question was put to the primary producers in the form of a vote. This proposal was defeated; the farmers in no uncertain terms stated that they did not wish this commodity placed under a marketing scheme with all its implications.

In Ontario there are many marketing schemes covering different commodities, and I believe I can say with all modesty, as a leader in this particular field, that in recent months several of the marketing schemes have been held up to very rigid inspection as to whether indeed they were of benefit to the group producing the commodity.

By reason of this problem and the implications of the provisions of this bill, the grain growers of Ontario, including those who grow corn, cannot help but be placed under what is in effect a marketing scheme with all its implications. Would the minister tell us whether he has conferred with the provincial authorities of Quebec and Ontario with regard to the double responsibility contained in a bill of this type? Has the minister conferred with the officials of these two provinces to ascertain whether there is indeed an intrusion into provincial jurisdiction?

• (4:50 p.m.)

Indeed, the granting of such a measure may be an intrusion into provincial authority. I am perfectly aware that the federal authorities deal with the transport of commodities interprovincially, but this bill acts in effect within the boundaries of a particular province. I am therefore wondering whether the minister has obtained the approval of

[Mr. McQuaid.]

provincial groups and whether they are satisfied that there is no infringement of their jurisdiction under this bill. Are they content to allow the federal government to move into their field to this degree? This is a problem that has troubled me.

Before the minister replies may I speak of one more matter which has been of some concern to me. If there is a duplication of responsibility, then where does the final authority lie? Suppose a regulation in regard to a feed grain is proposed by the members of a provincial marketing scheme, the implications of which are perhaps not acceptable to this board, does this board overrule any provincial regulations? This is something that I find it hard to concede.

Mr. Sauvé: I think the answer to that question can be found in clause 8 (1) (a). This kind of problem would only arise if the board were to buy and sell grain everywhere in Canada. Clause 8 (a) says that "such purchase by the board shall be made from the Canadian Wheat Board or an agent thereof". It is therefore clear that if the board becomes a buyer and seller it can only buy its grain from an agent of the Canadian Wheat Board, which in this case would buy it through the wheat exchange in Winnipeg. It is clear that this legislation does not authorize us to buy grain which is locally produced. As for the transportation and storage, we can pay transportation costs or find ways and means of helping the local producer to do so, as I mentioned earlier. These are two different operations. When it comes to buying, we must proceed through an agent of the Wheat Board. The problem the hon. member raised regarding the conflicting authorities of the marketing boards does not arise.

Mr. Danforth: Mr. Chairman, although the minister has partially clarified my problem, he has further complicated another matter. He keeps referring to the purchase of feed grains through a broker on the grain board. It is certainly contemplated under this bill that purchases of surplus feed grains will be made in other provinces and that other grains will be offered for sale.

Mr. Sauvé: That is what I just said. We have to have the authority of an order in council. Otherwise we can only buy grain from the Canadian Wheat Board or its agent. However the board's responsibilities are much broader than this. Buying and selling is just an additional responsibility given to it. The board administers the funds provided by