

Canadian Wheat Board Act

the Wheat Board (Mr. Lang) feel they are responsible for sales. If sales are made, the Wheat Board likes to say that it made them. If the wheat is not sold, the Wheat Board says it is stymied by the government. When wheat sales are made, the government says that it made them and the Wheat Board is incidental. Whose responsibility is it to sell grain?

The Canadian Wheat Board Act should be amended in other ways than those outlined in Bill C-238. I hope this bill will receive a good working over before it becomes law. From correspondence I have received, I understand that putting rye, flaxseed and rapeseed under the Wheat Board is not universally welcomed by the farmers. It is true that some farmers are very vociferous in wanting these grains under the Wheat Board. This depends on their location and whether they are specialists in these grains. However, many farmers do not want this legislation.

I suggest that Bill C-238 be discussed with the farmers before it becomes law. We wanted Bill C-197 discussed with the farmers before it was made law. The correspondence which I received a year ago indicated that Bill C-197 should be passed as quickly as possible.

An hon. Member: Bill C-176.

Mr. Bigg: It is now Bill C-176; a year ago it was Bill C-197. In any event, it is practically the same bill; it has not changed very much. Some newspaper articles blamed the opposition for holding up the bill. The same people who wanted Bill C-197 passed a year ago now want Bill C-176 passed. However, they always include a rider which would provide that the bill be amended in line with what the farmers want. The same could be said of this bill.

I warned the government not to have Bill C-238 passed until it finds out what the farmers want. We cannot believe the farm unions. There are four operating in my district. They do not get together, but they have a right to vote on it. I suggest that there be a plebiscite. Whenever there is a touchy problem such as whether rapeseed should be included under the Wheat Board, the people who grow rapeseed should be consulted. They are in the best position to know whether it should be included under the Wheat Board. If the farmers lose money by not being under the Wheat Board, that is their right. I nail my colours to the mast. It is even their right to go broke. They do not ask the government to always be saving them. The government should make it possible for farmers to make the sales they want. They should have the first, second, third and final say.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. It being six o'clock, I must interrupt the hon. member. The Chair has been informed that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) seeks permission of the House to revert to motions. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Bigg.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BROADCASTING, FILMS AND ASSISTANT TO THE ARTS

REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORT OF CANADA RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for allowing me to revert to motions. I move:

That the annual report of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission for the year ended March 31, 1970, be referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, this motion is acceptable to the opposition.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

AUTHORIZATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE TO STUDY OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY AND VISIT VARIOUS PARTS OF CANADA FOR THIS PURPOSE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): With Your Honour's permission, I have another motion I would like to put before the House. I move:

That the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works be authorized to study the oil and gas industry in Canada with particular reference to the ecological implications of various modes of transporting the product; and that in the conduct of such a study, the committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place within Canada during the week beginning June 13, 1971, and during the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen). As far as the principle of the motion is concerned, we are in agreement with it. This is a good committee and we think it is the appropriate committee to deal with this matter. At this stage, we are not prepared to agree to that aspect of the motion which provides that the committee leave this city and miss the parliamentary session during the week of June 13. In our view this is an exceptionally busy time. We have problems and we feel that the committee should remain here. I have said this to the minister. He realizes our position. We think that this involves not only travelling within Canada but visiting such places as Russia to see what that country is doing. Rather than just having frost and foam coming out of there, the committee could make an objective study.

I must say, with regret, that we cannot accept the motion in its present form. If the aspect which deals with