

*Government Orders*

• (2125)

The wheat board has advised us that four vessels are waiting at the west coast port as we speak. Another 18 vessels will arrive this week to load 500,000 tonnes and 12 more will arrive before the end of March. Aside from the potential cost of lost sales, the charges will be significant if work does not resume immediately. No wonder the Canadian Wheat Board has asked the government to take quick action to resolve this critical situation.

On top of the effects the strike would have on wheat and barley exports, is the potential impact on our export of canola, our second largest export crop. Canada will export 4.2 million tonnes of canola seed this year worth \$1.6 million. A major portion of it will pass through the ports of the west coast.

**The Chairman:** Excuse me. I wonder if the member is aware that other members want to speak. There is a relatively short time left. Had the parliamentary secretary finished his remarks or was he just about to finish them?

**Mr. Bevilacqua:** Mr. Chairman, since the 1970s, Japan has been our largest and most reliable customer of canola seed. In fact, canola has become the predominant vegetable used in Japan. While the Japanese prize the quality of the Canadian crop, they also place a premium on reliability. Japanese crushers purchase canola on the basis of just in time delivery and inventory approach. Needless to say, strikes and other work stoppages play havoc with this system.

With the experiences of the last few years, Japanese crushers are becoming quite concerned about our ability to reliably ship the quantities of canola that are required when they are indeed required.

Last week, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food met with the chairman of the international affairs committee of the Japanese Oil Seed Processors Association. He was seeking assurances that there would be no disruption in our oilseed shipments. The parliamentary secretary assured him that the government would act decisively to ensure that any disruption would be very minor.

For this and many other reasons, I ask this house to support the action taken by the Minister of Labour.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Jake E. Hoepfner (Lisgar—Marquette, Ref.):** Mr. Chairman, I am astounded with what I hear tonight. I am totally astounded and ashamed to stand in this House and say what I have to say tonight. Yes, ashamed that I have to say it.

For a whole week I have tried to get some communications through to the port of Montreal. Today I am told that I am such a second class citizen that they will not even listen to me in this House.

I have a constituent who has \$200,000 worth of sunflower seeds locked up in the port of Montreal and he cannot get them out without even trying to ship them. The bank manager is talking about foreclosing on him and we are joking around here about the lives of people.

• (2130)

When the House passes legislation where criminals can dictate to the judicial system and get paid for inconvenience and the people in my constituency have to go hungry, something is wrong in the House.

**An hon. member:** He is talking about the last strike. What about this strike?

**Mr. Hoepfner:** The member can scream and I can scream too. This is serious to me. I told my constituent today that I would help him to take legal action whenever he can to get this mess cleaned up.

We have tried to work with the government. We have tried to work with the minister to get that stuff out of there so that it will not be ruined. However what are we doing? Nothing, absolutely nothing. That is the type Parliament that has come about. I am ashamed. I feel like taking my citizenship and moving out of the country if this is the kind of justice we have. It is time that we change it.

My uncle was shot before a firing squad in the Soviet Union to get out of a system like that and that is what we are coming to. We had better realize it. When a man who is depending on putting food on his table cannot get his product out of the yard, something is wrong.

**The Chairman:** Pursuant to the order made earlier this day, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the committee of the whole stage of the bill now before the House.

[*Translation*]

The question is on amendment to clause 2. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Chairman:** All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

**Some hon. members:** Yea.

**The Chairman:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. members:** Nay.

**The Chairman:** In my opinion, the nays have it.

**Some hon. members:** On division.