

Canadian Livestock Feed Board

He mentioned that in his opinion it is more advisable to keep in the capital city of Canada the major boards that are established by the government. I wonder if the minister has any explanation for this unusual clause which appears in the bill, or if the Minister of Transport would give us an historical summary of how a clause like this originated? I would draw the minister's attention to the fact that in clause 6(h) the board has power to establish branches in Canada, or employ agents in Canada or elsewhere.

Will it not naturally follow that the headquarters of the board should be here in Ottawa and branches should be established elsewhere? The minister has in this bill left out British Columbia. That province does not qualify for the headquarters of the board, and I presume a branch might be established out in that province. If branches are to be established in the provinces, the minister may find himself in a position where the headquarters of the board would be established in one province in eastern Canada and a branch of the board in the city of Ottawa, the capital city of this country. This seems to me to be a rather strange method of dealing with this particular matter. I should like the minister to tell us if he has in mind the city of Charlottetown, for example, for the headquarters of the board?

The Chairman: Order. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but it is a little difficult for the Chair to hear the remarks being made by the hon. member.

Mr. Churchill: The situation was just about normal on the other side of the house, but I am glad the Chairman has drawn public attention to the fact the Liberal party does not pay much attention to what goes on in this chamber.

An hon. Member: A Liberal convention.

Mr. Churchill: Yes; it may be the last time I speak to a Liberal convention.

I wonder if the minister would explain now if Charlottetown would qualify for the headquarters of the board, and if not why not? One could go down the list and ask about Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Has "Joey" Smallwood heard about this? Perhaps the Minister of Transport could tell us?

I feel more free to speak on this particular matter than the hon. member for Carleton because, living as he does in Ottawa and representing a part of this great city, he

[Mr. Churchill.]

might be a little shy about urging that the headquarters should be established here. I do draw attention to the fact that this is something that should be explained. When you look at the beginning of clause 19 you find that the governor in council may make regulations to designate any city; so the matter comes back to the cabinet. Why has the cabinet not made up its mind upon this matter? The minister is asking us to pass this legislation; then subsequently the cabinet will decide in which city the headquarters of the board will be established. Then, the pressures come from the various provinces as to what should be done, except that British Columbia and the three prairie provinces are excluded. I see no reason at all for this clause as it stands, and I will await the minister's explanation.

Mr. Sauvé: We have not mentioned any city, Mr. Chairman, because we want to consult the interested parties as to the possible location. The Canadian Wheat Board has its headquarters at Winnipeg, the centre of the trade, and the centre of the trade in feed grain is normally Montreal. It is quite possible that after consultation with interested parties Montreal could be the location of the headquarters of the agency. We are applying no different rule from the one that was applied to the Canadian Wheat Board when the headquarters were established in Winnipeg, not in Ottawa.

Mr. Churchill: I am not sure the analogy of the Canadian Wheat Board follows in this particular case. I am prepared to move an amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, as follows:

That in line 11, page 9, paragraph (d) of clause 19, the words "any city in eastern Canada" be struck out and that there be substituted therefor the word "Ottawa".

● (9:00 p.m.)

The Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I have already explained that no decision has yet been taken as to the headquarters of the agency, because we feel we have to consult the interested parties. I should like to know from the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre whether he would be ready to propose an amendment to move the headquarters of the Wheat Board from Winnipeg to Ottawa on the basis of the principle he is establishing. My point simply was that we should normally establish this