

Canada Grain Act

to the appointment which took place some weeks ago. The comment in the newspaper is to the effect that the caucus of the Saskatchewan Liberal M.L.A.'s—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member again, but what he is about to say does not seem to relate in any way to the bill now before the house. I do not see any reference here to what might have been said at a caucus of Liberal members in the Saskatchewan legislature. The hon. member began to say that some arguments had been made to the effect that someone who was appointed had received his appointment because of political considerations. He is now proceeding to argue against that principle and, in order to support his position, he offers the comment of a newspaper. I suggest to the hon. member that citation 265 prohibits his using that quotation.

Mr. Argue: I am passing the paper back to my colleague, Mr. Speaker, who sits at the desk behind me. My reason for attempting to refer to it was to set forth our position in opposing the increase in salaries of the board of grain commissioners as set out in the bill now being considered. My whole point is that if appointments to this board are to be political, then there is no justification whatsoever for any increase in the salaries, such as here proposed, and there is no justification for giving the bill third reading. And, to verify my statement that such appointment was because of political considerations, I was endeavouring to inform the house of reports of what had gone on at a Liberal caucus meeting which was held perhaps a long time ago—certainly long before the debate in the house on this measure—and therefore I suggest could not reflect on proceedings in the house. However, I may be wrong in that.

An hon. Member: You are.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker says I am wrong. Well, I have been wrong before.

Mr. McCann: And you are wrong again.

Mr. Argue: This kind of appointment has, far too long, been considered a political plum that can be passed around to political friends by the government. Reports from Saskatchewan as to political considerations that have been given to such appointments in the past show that, among the body to whom I have referred, this appointment is considered political.

I rise at this time, as I have said, to make a final protest against the circumstances surrounding the appointment, and against the proposed increase in salaries granted to the board. If we are to have competent personnel

in the board of grain commissioners administering this very important act, then the government should endeavour to get the very best qualified personnel to man that board, and political considerations should have nothing to do with the appointments that are made to it.

I am afraid that once again the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) has shown his political astuteness, and that he is still the driver of the Gardiner machine which, substantial and powerful, has ridden over the wishes of the local Saskatchewan Liberal party.

Mr. Gardiner: The hon. member has been reading reports of speeches made in the Saskatchewan legislature. Write your own speeches.

Mr. Argue: I thought there might be some hope of a rebirth of democracy in the Saskatchewan Liberal party after the results of the last election. It is clear that now, as in the past, the Minister of Agriculture is in control of the Liberal political machine in western Canada.

Because we object to this bill I wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Nicholson):

That Bill No. 245 be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole house for the purpose of reconsidering clause 1 thereof.

Clause 1 provides for an increase in salaries.

Mr. Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Argue) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Aitken, Miss	Green
Argue	Hamilton (York West)
Balcer	Harkness
Barnett	Hees
Bell	Herridge
Blair	Hodgson
Brooks	Howe (Wellington-Huron)
Bryce	Johnson (Kindersley)
Bryson	Knight
Cameron (Nanaimo)	Knowles
Campbell	Lennard
Castleden	Macdonnell
Charlton	MacLean
Churchill	McBain
Coldwell	McCullough (Moose Mountain)
Diefenbaker	McGregor
Dinsdale	Mitchell (London)
Drew	Monteith
Ellis	Montgomery
Fairclough, Mrs.	Murphy (Lambton West)
Ferguson	Nicholson
Fleming	Nickle
Fraser (Peterborough)	Nosworthy
Fulton	
Gillis	