

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion negated on division.

Motion No. 4 (Mr. Horner) negated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House now has for consideration motions Nos. 6, 7 and 8. These motions are grouped together for the purpose of debate. Motion No. 6, moved by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Moore), is as follows:

That Bill C-176, an act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, be amended by deleting from subclause (1) of clause 3 the words "at least fifty per cent" at line 5, page 4 and substituting therefor the words "a majority".

Motion No. 7, moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), is as follows:

That Bill C-176, an act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, be amended by deleting from subclause (1) of clause 3 the words "pleasure" at line 8, page 4 and substituting the following:

"good behaviour for a term not exceeding 7 years but may be removed for cause by the Governor in Council at any time."

Motion No. 8, moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), is as follows:

That Bill C-176, an act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, be amended by adding the following as subclause (2) to clause 3 immediately after line 8 at page 4:

"(2) The Governor in Council shall be able to re-appoint council members who have served their full 7-year term."

and by renumbering subsequent subclauses accordingly.

The question is on motion No. 6. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin): Motion No. 6 needs very little explanation in view of the fact the bill only concerns producers. If producers are going to control their own marketing agency, they must have a majority of members on that agency. That is all my amendment seeks. That is the only explanation I need give, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As hon. members know, these three motions are grouped for the purpose of debate. If hon. members wish to speak to the other motions, they should do so at this time.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I wish to speak to motion No. 7, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. Most major statutes have the phrase "good behaviour" in them with regard to appointments. The National Transportation Act and the CRTC Act come to mind. When the committee dealt with this question I pointed out what I consider to be four major acts of Parliament. I refer to the National Transportation Act, the act which controls television,

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radio and the media, and the Canadian Wheat Board Act. There are two or three others. They all spell out that appointments are made by the governor in council to hold office on "good behaviour."

Clause 3 of this bill states that members of the council will be appointed by the governor in council to hold office during pleasure. We in this House have witnessed the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) from time to time. We understand very well what the words "during pleasure" mean. They mean during the minister's pleasure. If the minister does not like the fellow, or if he is not doing what the minister wants, he goes.

I do not believe a council should work for a government. It should work for the producers and the good of Canada. The council should not necessarily be the tool of the minister responsible for reporting its actions to the House of Commons. Therefore, I ask all members of this House to accept the amendment which changes the words "pleasure" to "good behaviour". If a man is doing his job, even though it is not to the minister's pleasure, if it is for the good of the country and the producers and the marketing of the product concerned, he should be allowed to keep that job.

I will be requesting a recorded vote on this question because, Mr. Speaker, as I have suggested, four major acts of Parliament already have the words "good behaviour" in them.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I think this amendment is worthy of support by all members of the House. There was considerable discussion in the committee as to how our various acts operate. Because we made changes in this act in relation to members of the council being, in the majority, producer representatives, it is very important that they have a definite period of time. With respect to a number of government agencies people are appointed at pleasure. They have been moved when they have become unpopular with the government of the day. It is almost like the case of a roads commissioner. A change in government means a change in the roads commissioner, not because he did not do a good job but because "at pleasure" in the legal sense usually means that he moves. He may have done a good job, but he was on the wrong side of the fence.

There should be in a council as much continuity as possible. Provided a person behaves himself, seven years will serve much better than "at pleasure", which indicates an appointment for a political purpose and one not necessarily in the interests of continuity and impartiality. Now that we have made the change and put producers on the council, I think most members would agree that some freedom should be given to them. Really they operate their own business. They operate on behalf of the other producers who join them, and seven years seems to be a reasonable length of time.

• (9:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the amendments before us would certainly tend to guarantee certain rights to the producers.

It is proposed, first of all, to alter amendment No. 6 by deleting the words "at least 50 per cent" and substituting