

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

included. If some producers want certain products to be excluded, section 17 will give them satisfaction.

In conclusion, I wish to say that agriculture as much as society needs an agricultural policy to promote economic growth. That is what the government party wants to achieve through the passage of this bill.

[English]

Mr. Horner: I know the hon. member is very desirous of bringing about orderly production and marketing, but does he not agree that this all depends on the price and fair distribution of feed grains?

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, is my dear colleague referring to distribution at the consumption or at the production level?

[English]

Mr. Horner: Production.

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the establishment of quotas, as stipulated in the bill now before us, will surely be discussed by each minister and each province and that consensus will be arrived at, as stated in the bill, by the producers themselves. Now, I believe that this answers the question asked by my hon. colleague.

[English]

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, on rising to speak on amendments Nos. 1, 5 and 22 to Bill C-176, a bill designed to introduce the principle of supply management to the production of agricultural products. Let me say I believe, as my party believes, that production should be curtailed only when the majority of the producers of the product concerned clearly indicate that they wish to curtail production.

The majority of producers of eggs and poultry across Canada have said very clearly that they wish the introduction of production control. We therefore believe it is quite satisfactory for the federal government to step in and apply the principle of supply management to the production of these two products. However, I think the majority of producers of other farm products have clearly indicated that they do not wish their products to be so controlled. This being the case, I do not think they should be controlled by the federal government.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): That is what the bill says.

An hon. Member: Go back to sleep.

Mr. Hees: I believe the federal government should adopt the same policy that was followed by the Conservative government which preceded it. That policy was to encourage farm production by taking effective steps to sell our surplus agricultural products in the export market. The application of this principle had several results. First, it relieved pressure on domestic prices of agricultural products and, second, it ensured that our products were sold in their entirety either in Canada or on the export market, obtaining for Canadian producers the best possible market. Such an aggressive and expansive policy is a very far cry from the negative, restrictionist policy presented in this bill.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I very strongly urge, and our party strongly urges, this government to start to do something constructive along these lines, to start now to organize a massive export trade drive similar to that which was organized by the Conservative government which preceded this government in power. It should endeavour to sell our agricultural surpluses in the export market, gaining for our producers the best possible price and protecting the prices of products sold in the domestic market as well.

This can and must be done, Mr. Speaker. It can be done if this government will simply get off their fat behinds and get to work, instead of sitting back and doing nothing about selling our products around the world. This lethargy is the reason our export trade has increased by a mere 5 per cent over last year. This is a disgraceful performance and something which must be corrected right away.

I see that you feel I should return to the bill, and naturally I shall, Mr. Speaker. In order to make it unnecessary to apply the principle of supply management to products that have not been indicated by the majority of the producers of them that they wish the production of such products to be curtailed, this government must organize a sales drive and go out into the export market and sell our surplus products. This will enable our hard-pressed farmers to receive a fair return for their products and will restore agriculture, at long last, to a healthy and profitable condition.

Mr. William Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we have heard quite an interesting speech by the hon. member, but perhaps he should not be given the responsibility once again of being the minister of industry, trade and commerce—"Sell, no matter at what price or at what cost". But there was very little in his speech pertaining to the legislation with which we are dealing.

Mr. Speaker, having listened with a great deal of interest throughout the day to the arguments put forward by hon. members on the question of orderly marketing and Bill C-176, I suggest that the amendment proposed by Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is probably based on the very dismal record of the present government in terms of its handling of agricultural policies over the last 3½ years. One needs only to reflect on the unsuccessful Lift program to see what a failure this government can be when it comes to such things as supply management. We can also look at the operations of the Canadian Dairy Commission to explain the reluctance of some members on this side of the House to blindly accept the proposed legislation.

When the bill was first introduced in this House under another number it read in such a manner as to not merely allow the government to create a situation of orderly marketing but to control marketing in the interests of the government, and to control production. It was not what I would consider orderly marketing. It was through the work of opposition members on the Standing Committee on Agriculture that we have seen some of the improvements in the legislation.

The amendments we are now discussing would become even more redundant, Mr. Speaker, if some other amendments were accepted by the government. I should like to deal with the amendments on the assumption that the bill