

Prairie Grain Stabilization Act

the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Richardson). So did the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski)—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. May the Chair remind the hon. member that usage forbids a member to pass remarks on votes taken in the House. These are decisions of the House, which has to accept them as a whole.

Moreover, I will take this opportunity to remind the hon. member that he is straying considerably from the subject, even if he has not started yet speaking to the two motions before us, and I will invite him to tie his remarks, as soon as possible, to the present debate.

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I was just about to deal with the problem which concerns us at present. One can see the kind of cooperation we are now getting.

It is absolutely normal to ask for additional income. Farming has undergone changes and also, in a more rapid way perhaps, production standards. Productivity rates increased in that sector more rapidly perhaps than in any other industry. If we keep on producing regardless of market demand, it is perfectly logical and normal in that economic area. But, if we cannot find markets, the selling price goes down as well as the farmers' profits.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Following the discovery of new varieties of grain, of the rational use of fertilizers and improved farming methods, there has been in the western provinces, during the last few years, a production explosion as far as grain is concerned.

I do not think that situation happened only in the grain industry because broiler production and swine breeding also increased tremendously. If our production shows a 3 or 4 per cent excess over consumption, prices are directly influenced and the producers' income is affected accordingly.

I believe that voting a measure on the stabilization of prices based on an average excess of 5 years is a long-term solution in respect of farm production, and above all if we consider that when we reviewed our dairy policy, we set the production volume according to consumption.

Since then, while the dairy policy was being studied, the members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste and of the opposition parties to no avail have criticized the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) for having managed to stabilize production in proportion to available markets.

Since then, under the dairy policy of the government, production had to be commensurate to market demand. Our dairy industry has been successful, and even if the dairy producers are not entirely happy, they have realized to what extent the government was serious and wished their production to be profitable.

The problem is not one of production. Whether it concerns grains, pork or poultry, the problem consists in establishing an orderly production plan related to marketing. That is the goal set by the present government.

I would urge hon. members—because some of them have stressed the importance of solidarity—to help producers. As regards Bill C-176, farmers are waiting for its adoption which would bring a measure of order in their farm production. They are waiting for it, and yet we are

still debating a bill purporting to assist western producers whom we wish to help. We must provide this opportunity so that western and eastern producers alike may realize the importance and the seriousness of the present government in establishing an orderly production.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I implore the patience of the cavalier gentleman on the other side. I want to make a few comments. We intend to support the amendment which has been offered by the hon. member to my left. I will give some reasons for that later.

In view of Your Honour's admonition a while ago, I hope I will be able to reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn). He made a very good speech. He asked a question and wanted to know if he was being naïve in asking it. I have never had occasion to believe that any member of the party to my left could be characterized as naïve. I say this in the kindest possible way. The description might well be afforded to some of the people who voted for them and may live to regret this decision, but I am not able to answer for my colleagues.

We sometimes come to spontaneous decisions as to how we record our vote. I will try to answer the question asked by the hon. member. Today we felt that the circumstances of the situation and the precipitate actions taken by this government were such that we should record our opposition to them. We proceeded in this way and supported the motion, but that was defeated. The government was able to employ full use of its exceptionally obedient majority. I did not agree with or would not accept the decision that was made. The decision having been made, I was not inclined to support the amendment offered earlier.

An hon. Member: Now who is naïve?

Mr. Baldwin: I do not expect my friends to be naïve. I sometimes think members opposite exhibit far more characteristics of naïvet  than the gentlemen to my left. There is no doubt that my friends on my left are socialists.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Baldwin: We recognize that. We can deal with them. Years ago I attended a school in Vegreville which is well represented today. My teacher used to say "I know very well I smell a rat; I smell it in the air. I shall nip it in the bud."

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Baldwin: It is the near-socialists opposite that perplex us. By their refusal to support this amendment at the report stage, they have shown that they are more interested in bringing in a measure of socialism in this country than the members to my left. I am glad that this amendment has been moved. In the standing committee dealing with this issue, my colleagues from this party were probably very indefatigable and persuasive. I presume they persuaded the hon. member to move this motion at the report stage so they would not have to move it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.