

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

of the actions taken by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) in the last while. When you are dealing with an organization which speaks for all the producers who are producing that commodity, and you get the same story for them all, it is possible for the government to act. But if you get one answer from one area and another from another area, it is difficult for anyone to establish policy and work for the benefit of that commodity group.

Let me refer to some of the organizations which have sprung up already. There is EXCAN, an organization of people interested in the grain industry. They organized for the purpose of finding new markets, finding better ways of handling grain, and every day you hear favourable comments about the progress these people have made. These are people directly involved in the industry who are engaged in the promotion and sale of their products. In the oilseed industry and the rapeseed industry a tremendous job has been done in establishing a market and providing the product for it. Then there is the work of the Palliser Wheat Growers' Association.

Mr. Horner: And the cattle industry.

Mr. Cobbe: And the cattle industry, I agree. But the cattle industry, I hope, will be national.

Mr. Horner: They have a national board.

Mr. Cobbe: We have a national board.

Mr. Horner: A national association.

Mr. Cobbe: We have to set up an association involving everybody who is producing. Then these people can make great strides in the industry. The Palliser Wheat Growers recently worked with the government in providing a unit train which was a tremendous success. This is what people in an industry can do to help their own industry grow.

In considering a proposal to remove beef and veal products from the bill I become concerned because I feel there are a lot of ways in the bill any commodity group could operate without having any supply management. Hon. members are familiar with the proposal which I understand was discussed and agreed to by nine of the ten provincial ministers of agriculture, that being a possibility that beef and veal products be removed from clause 18, which deals with supply management, but be allowed to come within the rest of the bill. I think many people would agree with this. I think the people I have spoken to in the beef industry would do so.

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member's speech but he inferred that nine out of ten of the agriculture ministers agreed to exclude cattle from the provisions of clause 18. That was not the agreement according to my understanding and I should not let his assertion go unchallenged. I am certain he knows better, and that the Minister of Agriculture knows better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order. That is a matter of debate between hon. members.

Mr. Cobbe: On that point, it is my understanding that this was agreed to by nine out of ten ministers. The

minister from the province of Manitoba did not agree with this, as he has other ideas of how control should be placed. But those are his opinions. When you get nine out of ten ministers agreeing—

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Horner: To what? What was their agreement?

Mr. Cobbe:—to something which had arisen and something which we have not been able to deal with, I hope the House will consider the possibility of the minister introducing another amendment. I know this requires the unanimous consent of the House, but I think consideration must be given to it. If beef and veal are to be removed from any part of this bill, I think the only part that should be removed from is clause 18. I know there is a problem in establishing who is a producer, who gets a vote and how many votes. These are things over which we do not have control as they are handled by producers and the provincial governments, but I feel that they can resolve these questions and I am confident that they will resolve them.

I would ask hon. members to give very serious consideration to finding an amendment which would permit the removal of beef and veal producers from the supply-management portion of this bill.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): In rising to participate in this debate, Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record as supporting the amendments proposed by my colleague from Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). I believe that the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) outlined in very valid terms some of the reasons why the amendments should be supported, particularly those relating to the movement of goods interprovincially in such a way that we would have an unimpeded flow of agricultural products to all provinces.

We have heard a great deal in this country about unity. Certainly I believe that one of the prime requirements for national unity is the fundamental objective of economic unity. It is of the utmost importance that we have free movement not only of agricultural products but manufactured products as well across interprovincial boundaries.

Another amendment deals with the definition of a farm product as it relates to the objective of this bill. In this area I think we could allay the fears of those who have expressed concern over the fact that this could be coercive legislation if the amendment proposed by my hon. friend were accepted.

Some hon. members opposite have objected to the openendedness of this debate. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that we are dealing with one of the fundamentals of this bill—the definition of farm products and an amendment to a marketing plan. It is in this context that we have to debate these amendments, bearing in mind that the objects of the bill are ostensibly designed to promote an efficient, competitive agricultural industry.

As has been pointed out by other hon. members, this bill has been with us for almost two years. One might ask why we need more amendments. The answer is very simple. This Bill is a classic example of the government's inability to manage effectively its program of legislation. There have been so many examples of this legislative mismanagement that the government should have learned its