

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Portneuf.

Mr. Woolliams: Just a minute. On a point of order—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. There was no unanimous consent.

Mr. Woolliams: I ask that Your Honour put that question again. The member made a facetious remark. As far as I understand it, there is consent. I have only one other recommendation to make. I felt that consent was given. I ask Your Honour, in your usual non-prejudiced manner, to put the question again to the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I am sorry, but I heard no unanimous consent. Does the House give its consent to the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): There is no unanimous consent. The hon. member for Portneuf.

An hon. Member: Who said no?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. There is no unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to make a few comments after what the previous speaker has just said. His observations were quite relevant and I intend to support the position he will take as regards the legislation now before us. Bill C-197, entitled "An Act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products", will merely create a new body to enable the government to find well-paid jobs for friends of the party.

I have serious doubts about the effectiveness of this legislation because we already have the Canadian Wheat Board whose responsibilities are becoming less and less important as sales are down throughout the world. Ever fewer sales, but still the same, well-paid staff. There are no lay-offs at the Canadian Wheat Board, nor any fight against inflation. The report of the Board shows that the wages of its staff are always increasing.

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

A few years ago, in the spring of 1967, the Canadian Livestock Feed Board was established. After three years of operation, we realize that Quebec farmers and millers must pay \$1.06 or \$1.07 per bushel for barley, while it can be bought at 76 and 78 cents per bushel on world markets.

In spite of those famous boards, we are still facing obvious injustices. We witnessed the creation of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which, so far, has not brought any results. This situation exists because the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs must accomplish dual functions, which creates a conflict right from the beginning. How can he approve and disapprove something at the same time? Can a department make a stand against the speculator and encourage the consumer at the same time? Can one encourage the consumer while protecting speculators? This is utterly ridiculous and in the light of the bill now under consideration, we realize that this is going to be done.

Indeed, clause 6(2)(b) reads as follows:

(b) have regard to the interests of consumers of farm products and of those engaged in the marketing thereof as well as to the interests of producers of farm products.

Mr. Speaker, this is utterly ridiculous. Can a lawyer speak for the plaintiff and the accused at the same time? This is inconceivable!

● (9:00 p.m.)

Until now consumers have never asked for protection. In Portneuf riding as elsewhere in Quebec consumers are not at all afraid of the farmers because the latter are not evil-doers but mere producers. The enormous quantity of products accumulated in warehouses and stores creates a surplus problem for the government but shows that the farmer has fulfilled his task well.

What consumers want is simply more purchasing power. All things considered, with a little money in your pocket, you can get anything you want. You buy what you want, both from the standpoint of quality and quantity, when and where you want it.

Clause 6 (2) of the bill states, and I quote:

In carrying out its duties the Council shall (a) consult, on a continuing basis, with the governments of all provinces having an interest in the establishment or the exercise of the powers of any one or more agencies under this act or with any body or bodies established by the government of any province to exercise powers similar to those of the Council in relation to intraprovincial trade in farm products;