

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

ment by the Conservative government, in 1935, of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Now, Mr. Speaker, attempts are apparently being made to exclude such products while alleging that this bill is good, but not for us. It is alleged that the Canadian Wheat Board is excluded from the bill; beef will also be excluded and the hon. member for Crowfoot seems to be the protector of small producers. Some members of the opposition are attempting to make political hay by asking: What will happen to the family farm? What is going to happen to our family farms?

In fact, they want to exclude beef and veal, but those same people base their arguments on recommendations or suggestions from a very powerful organization to which they often refer—the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Representatives of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture appeared before the committee. They presented a brief on January 14 and here is the recommendation which they made concerning beef and veal—I quote:

We do regret the proposal to exclude cattle and beef from the legislation—

—which is contrary to some people's wishes. I quote, because opposition members often refer to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Here is what they went on to say:

In doing so, producers marketing cattle for feeding and slaughter are deprived of the opportunities for close and competent examination of the industry through the medium of the Council that the legislation would provide, at once, or in the future. There are a great many producers of cattle represented through this Federation who do not share the views on this issue of the organizations opposing inclusion of these products. It should be stressed that inclusion in the Bill in no way commits the industry to support an acceptance of any marketing plan now or in the future, but exclusion does rule out the possibility of using the Act for useful purposes as may, on examination of the issue, appear.

The hon. member for Crowfoot seems to imply that farm organizations are opposed to the inclusion of beef and veal. He speaks on behalf of big producers at the expense of small ones, which is precisely what the Canadian Federation of Agriculture wanted to point out in the presentation of its brief on January 14, 1971.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill. For those who want to have certain categories of producers excluded from it, I will read clause 17 dealing with the establishment of agencies, and I quote:

The Governor in Council may by proclamation establish an agency with powers relating to any farm product or farm products the marketing of which in interprovincial and export trade is not regulated pursuant to the *Canadian Wheat Board Act* or the *Canadian Dairy Commission Act* where he is satisfied that a majority of the producers of the farm product or of each of the farm products in Canada is in favour of the establishment of an agency.

That means that if the beef or calf producers do not want to be included in this bill they will not be if they so desire.

I cannot see why we would eliminate a category of producers if we look closely at clause 17.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by making a suggestion. I have tried to draw the attention of this House to a product marketing program and I would like to call the attention of the minister on the report of the Federal Task Force on Agriculture which was established

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

on October 10, 1967. Here is what a newspaper had to say on the subject:

—only 8 per cent of researchers in agriculture are doing research work in the area of economy and marketing.

In other words, only one man-year out of 200 allotted to agricultural research production in Canada applies to the field of marketing. So it is urgent to review this situation.

It seems to me that since our productivity is higher than our potential consumption we should direct more of our research work, of our research personnel toward the marketing of agricultural products.

This, Mr. Speaker, is something I would like to suggest to the minister.

In my view, this bill is most important. We want to deal with the current agricultural slowdown. When UCC officials met on November 1st with Quebec members of the government party, they submitted a brief and advised us as to the extent—

• (8:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I do so to advise him that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there is unanimous consent, the hon. member may continue. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank all my colleagues for their cooperation and assure them I will be brief.

I was saying that the UCC also tried to have the Quebec members of the government party recognize the situation currently facing hog and laying hen producers. For instance, this brief mentioned, in connection with hogs, that when production cost was \$29.50 per 100 lbs, the average selling price was \$23.50. For 1,700,000 hogs, the deficit was then \$10,200,000.

As for laying hen production, the deficit was \$4,860,000.

For turkey production, the deficit was \$1,125,000, that is to say an aggregate deficit of \$16,285,000, solely for the production of hogs, layers and turkeys in the province of Quebec.

I am convinced that those figures are inconsistent with regard to production costs in Ontario and in the Maritimes.

Throughout 1969-70—I have the statistics here—in the eastern provinces, there was an 8 per cent increase, namely of 278,000 hogs, and in the western provinces, a 32 per cent increase, or about 1 million hogs. A tremendous production increase resulted in price changes at the producers' level and it is for that reason that Quebec producers suffered a loss of about \$10,200,000.

We are all aware of the importance of agriculture and it is for this reason that we are looking into the farmers' problem between Christmas and New Year's Day and are trying to find a solution. Bill C-176, to establish marketing agencies will be that solution. All products should be