

*Government Orders*

I will be dealing with Motion No. 2. Before I do that I would simply like to point out the gravity of the situation facing our supply management systems with Motion No. 1 which I proposed not being put today.

I have a letter which was drafted and sent to the chairman and all members of the agriculture committee, including the hon. member for Elgin, a couple of days after the last meeting of the agriculture committee. It points out the gravity of the situation that has developed because of the amendments which the government has put and the way the bill has been drafted.

In the legislation which is before the House today, the National Farm Products Act has been divided into three sections, one dealing with the council itself. Under part I the council has the authority to deal with processed and unprocessed farm products.

In part III, which is the basis of this legislation before us today, it deals with both the processed and unprocessed farm products. That is the establishment of the check-off legislation for products and the establishment of agencies.

This leaves part II, which is the legal basis background, the authority for the establishment of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, the Canadian Poultry Marketing Agency, the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency, the Canadian Hatching Eggs Marketing Agency, at variance with the other two parts of the act.

The Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency sent an urgent letter to the chairman and all members of the committee saying their proclamation, their authority for operation, has been put in jeopardy by the amendments which the government has brought in. It provides historically their proclamation. It gives them the authority for dealing with processed and unprocessed dairy poultry products. Now that section of the act which gives them the authority for their establishment simply states:

(b) for the purposes of Part II, eggs and poultry and any part of any such product;

The authority has been stripped away. In the letter they have written, they said in part:

The Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency is of the view that such wording inevitably leads to the conclusion that marketing agencies under Part II have no authority to deal with processed products.

Such results, albeit unintended, removes the ability of Part II marketing agencies to exercise powers over processed products now conferred or which may be conferred in the future by proclamation of the Governor in Council.

They go on to say that in their opinion the government should bring in an amendment and that is the amendment which I have proposed. It is standing in the motions before the House today:

(i) eggs and poultry, whether processed or unprocessed, and any part of

any such product.

Only a month and a half ago we had some 40,000 farmers on Parliament Hill. They were essentially here to protest the lack of progress the government has made in those GATT negotiations. In those GATT negotiations the government claims it is seeking a clarification of article XI 2(c)(i) of the GATT agreement which would make the supply management system not only cover raw poultry and dairy products but processed ones that contain at least 51 per cent of the raw product.

• (1550 )

Here we have the government exposed totally, speaking out of both sides of its mouth. It says it goes to GATT and negotiates one thing. We saw the former Minister of Agriculture and the Deputy Prime Minister telling 40,000 farmers that on the steps of Parliament Hill on February 21. Now we do not see a single minister, and we have three Ministers of Agriculture and one parliamentary secretary. They are introducing amendments which weaken and undermine the supply management system, certainly for the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency, and we do not have a single minister or parliamentary secretary here to defend this. We have a private member, a member of the committee, saying no to even having this important amendment debated today let alone voted on.