

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Olson: No, the minister will not permit a question. There will be time later.

Mr. Horner: I do not want to pick his argument apart, Mr. Speaker. That is not the reason for my question.

Mr. Olson: That is not the reason at all. The reason I wanted to intervene briefly was to correct some of the erroneous points and misinterpretations that have been put forward.

Mr. Horner: Let me ask my question then, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has had an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, a point of order—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) on a point of order.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I think you and the House and the minister may have misunderstood my desire to ask a question. It was only in order to have a better understanding of the minister's words: that was my only purpose in wanting to ask a question. The minister is saying that he wants to explain things and set the record straight, and that is the only reason for my wanting to ask a question.

Mr. Olson: That is just one of the foolish points of order that they raise to interrupt the speeches of other members. It has also been claimed, Mr. Speaker, that there is no requirement for meaningful consultation by the government with the farmers under this legislation. The whole of this legislation is based on the premise that it will only be used on the initiative of the producers and others directly involved in the agricultural industry.

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Horner: Where does it say that in the bill?

Mr. Korchinski: That is a pretty phony argument.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. Hon. members have had the opportunity of making their remarks. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) now has the floor.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, where does it say that in the bill? In what clause, and in what part of what clause?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, no comprehensive plan involving supply management, for example, would or could be considered except with the strong support of, if not on the initiative of, the producers.

Mr. Horner: What clause says that?

Mr. Olson: The fundamental role of the council—

Mr. Horner: I did not hear the minister say what clause says that.

Mr. Olson: —as spelled out in the bill is to consult with people and with the provinces—

Mr. Horner: What clause says that?

Mr. Olson: —and to advise the government on proposed plans or those in operation.

Mr. Horner: What clause says that?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, perhaps hon. members would read the bill. If they would send it to committee so that we could hear all the details, we should be very happy to give them all these explanations.

Mr. Thompson: But where does it say that in the bill?

Mr. Olson: The hon. member ought to read clause 8. Of course, if he has not the time to read it, that is not our fault.

Mr. Horner: But where does it say that in the bill?

Mr. Thompson: It does not in clause 8 say what the minister suggests. He should read it.

Mr. Olson: Let me point out that comprehensive plans, including such things as supply management, could only be implemented under a delegation of provincial powers, and provinces generally require a plebiscite before such a scheme can be implemented.

Mr. Thompson: That is not in the bill.

Mr. Olson: We do not pass provincial legislation in this House, let me make that clear.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: But you sure override the provincial governments when you want to.

Mr. Olson: We do not. I know that there are variations in the details of provincial