

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

I would therefore ask hon. members to listen to the hon. member for Crowfoot, for I know that he has interesting things to say.

[English]

**Mr. McBride:** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the record should show that as recorded at pages 10783, 10784, 10785 and page 10786 of *Hansard* I was prevented from making a speech by the same hon. member on Tuesday of this week.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. The Chair is not here to judge the past actions of hon. members but is presiding over the debate which is taking place at this time. I think at this late hour, and because of the importance of the debate, hon. members should co-operate with the present occupant of the chair and allow the hon. member for Crowfoot and any other hon. member who is interested in participating in the debate to express his opinions on this legislation.

**Mr. Horner:** According to my timing, Mr. Speaker, I have used about five minutes of my allotted 20 minutes, and before I reach the end of my 20 minutes I am prepared to move that this House do now adjourn. That would precipitate a vote. All I am asking is to be heard for 15 minutes.

**Some hon. Members:** Louder!

**Mr. Horner:** I think they should at least give me some kind of attentive hearing. If they cannot give me that, then I ask them to step out behind the curtain and have a smoke. But for heaven's sake, let us keep some decorum in this House, or adjourn it and come back next year to deal with this bill. I have had enough of this guck.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. The Chair invites the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) to co-operate with me. I think hon. members are not being fair to themselves or to the House if all the time they invite in one way or another others to provoke them. We will not make progress in this debate unless we get some good will from everybody. The Chair asks that hon. members abide by the rules of the House; that is all I can do.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I had read out one of the major amendments which the committee achieved, dealing with the composition of the council of three to nine members, 50 per cent of whom must be producers. I thought this was a major achievement of the committee. The second major amendment that the committee achieved was to stipulate that the chairman or vice-chairman of the council must be a producer. That was not written into the old bill, C-197, or into this one, C-176.

The third major amendment that the committee achieved was to stipulate that there be regional representation on the council. The committee travelled all across Canada. We went to Nova Scotia, to Halifax, to Quebec City, to Toronto, to Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver. At every one of those locations we heard representations that the council should have regional representation on it. I am grateful to the committee for finally supporting an amendment to that effect, stipulating that a third of the appointees should come from western Canada, a third from the central provinces, and the

remaining third from the Atlantic provinces. I thought this was a major breakthrough, and it allayed a lot of the anxieties expressed at the eastern and western extremities of the country.

Another major amendment which the committee achieved changed the original proposal in the bill that the governor in council could establish an agency when a significant number of producers in a region requested that a national agency be set up. This was changed to read that a majority of producers in a region would have to request an agency before one could be established. The bill as now amended states that before an agency can be set up there must be a majority of producers across Canada in favour of setting up such an agency, and that a plebiscite may be taken by the council in order to satisfy itself that a majority is in favour of a national agency.

• (4:00 a.m.)

This is one of the most significant amendments that the committee established, and that after months of heated argument. The other major amendment achieved by the committee was that an agency will consist of not more than 12 members and that the majority may be producers who will be elected, and that agency members may elect a chairman and vice-chairman. It follows that if it is the general desire to have a producer as chairman or vice-chairman, it can be achieved.

Naturally, I was not satisfied with all the work of the committee but I should like to say a word of appreciation for the chairman of the agricultural committee.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Horner:** Sometimes the chairman and I had violent arguments such as the one which took place on March 12, 1971. Mr. Speaker, sometimes you witness arguments in this chamber, but I am sure you have not witnessed the heat and venom expressed in the agricultural committee. However, the chairman withstood it all and came through with flying colours.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Horner:** He did a tremendous job. We could not have reached the conclusions that we have today without the understanding and conciliatory attitude of the chairman. While I do not like to hand out bouquets to any member on the opposite side of the House, Mr. Speaker, on this occasion I cannot help doing it. I understand the difficulties he had, and I appreciate his work.

Mr. Speaker, you are apparently anxious to rise and limit my time, but I want to caution you that I was interrupted on many occasions. I do not feel that I have had 20 minutes, and I should like to continue for another five minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's time expired at four o'clock and he was given an extra five minutes to take into account the points of order, interruptions and questions of privilege. It is always difficult, without a stop-watch, to determine exactly what time has been taken up. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed another five minutes, which would give him an additional ten minutes.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.