

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Whicher: Let the Leader of the Opposition stand up for Canadian agriculture in the east—Quebec and Ontario—as well as British Columbia, and let him stand up for his own area and for western Canada which we welcome under this national marketing bill. It will allow all farmers in Canada to sell all their products at equal prices in a fair way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, it has been made clear by spokesmen for this group, including my hon. friend from Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) who spoke this evening, that we are opposed to the amendments now before the House and that we are in favour of the bill. However, it has become very clear that we are having an enjoyable evening which is going to get us nowhere. I therefore ask for the opportunity to rise in the course of this debate so that I may move a motion which I believe it is in order for me to make. My motion will be put forward under the terms of Standing Order 46, which reads as follows:

When a question is under debate, no motion is received unless it is to amend it; to postpone it to a day certain; for the previous question; for reading the orders of the day; for proceeding to another order; to adjourn the debate; to continue or extend a sitting of the House; or for the adjournment of the House.

I had thought of moving under Standing Order 46, which I have just read, that we should proceed to another order on the orders of the day in the name of the government. However, this has been tried before and Standing Order 18 has been relied on to support the proposition that government orders should be called and considered in such sequence as the government determines. However, there is Standing Order 24 which provides:

A motion for reading orders of the day shall have preference over any motion before the House.

There are several members in my party prepared to second the motion I am about to make, but perhaps the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) would second it for me.

An hon. Member: I am sure he will.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My motion is that orders of the day be now read so that we can get back to that point in our proceedings and the government itself can make a choice with respect to some order in which we might make better progress than we seem to be making tonight. I therefore move that the orders of the day be now read.

I do not see the Minister of Justice giving me the nod. If he does not do so, my hon. friend from Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) will second the motion but he will yield to the Minister of Justice if that is the hon. gentleman's wish.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) is the acting leader of the House and the matter is in his hands.

[Mr. Whicher.]

Mr. Olson: I know this motion is not debatable, but if I might speak to the point of order—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I did not get the floor on a point of order. I got the floor in the course of the debate.

Mr. Olson: I am speaking to the propriety of the motion, whether or not the motion can be put.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson).

Some hon. Members: Why?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Perhaps before doing so the Chair should inform the House and, in particular, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), that it has some reservations about putting the motion at this time and is inviting the opinions and views of hon. members on the matter before making a decision.

Mr. Olson: This takes me a little by surprise. In the many years I have been in this House I have never seen this manoeuvre or procedure attempted. I should like to draw attention to the fact that Standing Order 24 says a motion for reading orders of the day shall have precedence—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): "Preference."

Mr. Olson: Preference. Such a motion shall have preference before any motion before the House. I submit that the orders of the day have been called. They were called earlier today. After that call is made, after the orders of the day have been read, it is in the hands of the leader of the House to indicate which of the orders shall be called. Under the arrangements to which the House has agreed for the two-hour period tonight, it is up to the leader of the House on behalf of the government to make that indication, and the order of the day which has been called is item No. 20 on the order paper.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the point of order. First, may I agree with the Minister of Agriculture that the government does have the right to decide in what sequence its orders shall be called. That is made clear under Standing Order 18(2). In other words, at any time when the orders of the day have been called from the chair, if it is government business the government has the right to pick the item.

I know that on occasions we have tried to move to proceed to another order and we have been denied that privilege on the basis of Standing Order 18(2). But I would point out that not only is there Standing Order 24, to which the minister has just referred, but that Standing Order 46 deals specifically with the stage at which we now find ourselves, that is, when a question is under debate. This is all we are doing, Sir. You called on me and gave me the floor. No motion is received unless it falls into one of several categories, and one which is received is a motion to read the orders of the day.