

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

happy if this were the case because the biggest competitor to the beef industry is the poultry industry, and if prices go up in the poultry industry poultry products will be less competitive with beef. As I say, I suppose I should be happy. But I am not happy because as a legislator here I think I should be creating opportunities for the youth of this nation.

The government is proposing to build a feudal system into the poultry industry. The young people of today may be able to clean out the poultry barns for the Ben Beauregards, or be given jobs as truck drivers, hauling the products to market, as long as they bring the trucks back after they have unloaded the rich lord's products.

I hope the producers of the other products listed in the bill in paragraph (ii) do not express themselves in favour of a system of supply management which would create feudal lords in every other area of agriculture. If they do, those who are not born wealthy or who do not marry into a wealthy family will not be able to pay for the quota which alone will enable them to operate successfully. The others will live in a state of serfdom.

Some time ago I was reading Peter Newman's brilliant book "Renegade in Power". The author referred to people who were "well connected" and "well born", and I did not quite understand what he meant. I scratched my head over that one. How does one get to be well born in the country of Canada? The expression came from the old country, and I learned later that Peter Newman comes from the old country. If this bill passes there will be well born people in this country. They will be well born because they will be born into protected, secure empires. I want no part of that in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: People will no longer have an equal chance in the poultry industry if this bill passes. This will be to the shame of every member of the House. Let them live with it. Let the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) live with it. He will not be in politics long. Today, youth may accept the position. They may do so tomorrow, or next year. But in the years to come they will not accept it; they will not accept what this bill is doing.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): I was impressed by the flamboyant rhetoric of the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). However, I began to wonder while he was speaking whether or not he was speaking against his own amendment. I thought the amendment had been moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot and seconded by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh) and I cannot understand why he should speak so strongly against what appears to be his own idea. He may have an opportunity to explain this to us later on, because I am sure we are going to hear from him again. And again. And again.

What we are dealing with here is a face-saving device which affects at least three of the parties in the House. The hon. member for Crowfoot and his hon. friends have been able through their efforts to secure the removal of the term "cattle and calves" from the bill and substitute a euphemism known as natural products of agriculture. The hon. member for Crowfoot spoke against supply management, yet there is nothing in the amendment

which even mentions supply management. This is but a further example of the technique of setting up a straw man. His argument really had no substance, but it was full of sound and, I also noted, contained a good deal of fury.

The legislation before us is called national farm marketing legislation. I am not so sure that it is. It has all the earmarks of national farm marketing legislation but I suspect that in our compromises, our face-saving, we have severely emasculated the bill. I am concerned about this because the party to which I belong has been four square in favour of national marketing legislation for at least a generation. It is disappointing to us that the bill should come to us in its present form. Incidentally, I do not think the minister himself is too displeased with the decision to remove the term "cattle and calves" from the bill because he represents a cattle constituency. But he and other MPs have been subjected for over a year now to a great deal of static from the poultry industry which wants this bill desperately therefore it is essential that we deal with this legislation with the utmost dispatch.

• (4:00 p.m.)

From the point of view of members of our party, there is a subsequent amendment which establishes the historic trading pattern for an "agency" in the poultry business that contemplates market sharing or a quota system. I, personally, am supporting the bill as I am supporting the amendment before us. I therefore will not speak against the amendment with such force as the mover of that amendment.

I support the bill because I represent a constituency having a large poultry industry. In the past year I have received representations which indicate that the people in that industry desperately need this legislation. They need it because the whole industry cries out for relief from the surpluses created in one region and dumped into other regions in Canada. The defence of that practice was that interprovincial trade barriers were developed by various provinces in order to protect their own poultry industries from out of province threats. Broiler surpluses are not usually caused by the individual farm owner, but by a large integrated operation sponsored in most cases by a wealthy feed company that can afford to lose money on their ultimate product, broilers, in order to make money on feed. They do this through a kind of contractual operation in which the farm owner is really the serf of the feed company. He, his wife and children work to produce this product at times for 10 cents a bird.

As the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) ably pointed out, I am aware that when we support this bill we may well be serving the big integrated interests as well as the independent poultry producers. As the hon. member suggested, we may well be locking them in to lucrative positions for years.

If any issue in this Parliament were black and white, things would be very simple, but they are not. They are not red either.

Mr. Horner: You have to aim for gold.