

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

That is why the farmers are now asking themselves: what is wrong? You may find the answer to that question on page 4 of the April 8 issue of *La Terre de Chez Nous*, and I quote:

If agriculture is not sick its leaders are—

This article does indeed state the truth of the matter. Some members of the Canadian Dairy Commission should submit to an economic health cure.

This bill provides also for the creation of new jobs in order to have studies undertaken. Indeed, consideration will again be given to the possibility of marketing farm products. I was under the impression that all the employees and experts of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce would devote themselves to the sale of Canadian products, but it seems that another council will have to be set up, in each department, in order to advise the minister's own council so as to bring about marketing planning.

Once all those councils, sub-councils and agencies have been set up, farm producers will be told that nothing can be done for them, as the milk producers have already been told. Formerly, when there were some hard to solve problems, particularly in our area where illnesses like, for instance, brucellosis, have caused considerable damage, it was possible to try to cope with some cases.

Today, that is not possible anymore. The door is closed and locked.

Once the agencies and sub-agencies are established, the minister will be like the queen-bee surrounded and well protected by his staff. One word from him will be enough for the implementation of a decision. Indeed, no matter how many laws are passed and how many agencies are created, we can see in the last part of the bill that the minister is the supreme authority: he is the only one to decide.

That is exactly why so many farmers are dissatisfied, and rightly so. We know that there are surpluses. Farmers should be spared some of the blows and be able to diversify their production. They must be helped as were wheat producers. The government must give them assistance if it prides itself in helping producers.

Today, we have some indications that the government is no longer helping the producer, but gives him orders and lays down conditions. This is why I am protesting.

I do not accept a dictatorship at the minister level or at the government level. We

[Mr. Gauthier.]

are living in a democracy and as long as I am here, I will plead on behalf of democratic rights and all the more for those of farmers and milk producers which make up our basic industry in the province of Quebec as well as for hog and potato producers.

Mr. Speaker, if the government wishes to pass Bill C-197, it should make it more democratic. How can that be done? Instead of having these public servants appointed by the government in power, it would be desirable to divide the Council into three sectors. First, the federal sector, second, the provincial sector and, third, the producers' sector. Each sector would choose its own representatives.

That seems to me the only way to set up a national administrative council of a democratic nature so that farmers and producers may have their say for once and may delegate to the council representatives of their associations. Furthermore, relations with the provincial governments are anticipated since the recommendation reads and I quote:

and further to provide for federal-provincial agreements.

If agreements are to be entered into it is absolutely necessary that provincial governments be represented on this council.

• (4:40 p.m.)

In introducing this bill, the government has acted in the same way as when it introduces any other legislative proposal. The government decides, without consultation, and then it says to the provincial government: Do this, or else you will not receive anything. And it calls that co-operation. Well, I suggest that this is not co-operation. And co-operation must be established without fail at the council and the agency levels. And there will be co-operation as I recommended a moment ago, through the establishment of a council comprising three members from the federal government, three members representing the producers and three members from the provincial governments. To be logical and to ensure the autonomy of this council, each organization represented on it would pay its own delegates. It may be said that because this is again a federal organization, it should pay the representatives of farm associations and provincial governments. I do not agree since this would endanger democracy. Let these three elements pay their delegates to the National Council. This would be the best way to be sure that everybody will be entitled to participate in studies and findings.