

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

they know it exists and even though it might not have been approved by a majority of those concerned.

In addition, of course, clause 7(e) gives the council the right to require any person engaged in the production of a product to register with the council, maintain books and records in relation to production and to submit to the council any information which the council may want. This may apply to people who are totally opposed to the plan which affects them. It may even be the case that a majority of those engaged in a particular industry are opposed to it; yet they are compelled to furnish information of the kind mentioned under a penalty of two years in gaol if they resist.

I hope that a number of Liberal backbenchers, many of whom I believe feel as strongly about this bill as we do and are as strongly opposed to it, will seize the opportunity to say to the minister and the government, "This bill cannot pass until it is radically changed so as to conform with the basic rights of the Canadian people". This is the stand which my party takes. When the bill goes to committee we shall continue to take it, and when it comes back again to the House we shall continue to take it. We do not believe in legislation of this type. In particular, we do not think these powers should be possessed by a government which despite its desire for dictatorial authority has so often shown itself to be incompetent. It is bad enough to be governed by a dictator, but incompetent dictatorship is far worse.

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, although I had the opportunity to speak on the original bill, I find this amendment as proposed to be entirely inadequate. I hate to say this because I have great respect for the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) when we are talking about wheat. But we are not talking about wheat. This is such a transparent amendment that I am confident it could not have been written with typewriter tape; it would have to be written with scotch tape—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pringle: We are talking about a bill to give some assistance to farmers who do not grow wheat. I have to say to the people to my left that there is a part of agriculture in Canada that is non-wheat. I realize this is seldom accepted in their speeches by the wheat farmers who know little, it appears to me, about the basic problems of the egg

industry, the broiler industry, the turkey industry, the honey industry, the hog industry and, possibly, the beef industry. I challenge them to get in touch with the producers. Ask the producers what they think. Let them get in touch with Ed. Morgan, manager of the British Columbia Egg Marketing Board, or with John Janzen, general manager of the Ontario Broiler Marketing Board, or with W. J. Landreth, manager of the Alberta Broiler and Turkey Marketing Board. Let them contact Ed Pratt, manager of the British Columbia Turkey Board; Art Stafford, manager of the British Columbia Broiler Marketing Board; Fred Langstaff, manager of the Saskatchewan Turkey Marketing Board; Emery Kitchen of the Manitoba Turkey Marketing Board; Keith Kennedy, a Prince Edward Island poultryman, or Ed. Gilmore of the British Columbia Vegetable Board. Ask these people what they want.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: These producers are a little tired of the opposition trying to run the farming industry from the House of Commons. They have decided that the place to operate a farm is on the farm. They have already made the necessary adjustments with respect to orderly production and marketing. They are already operating under provincial legislation, but they need the help of a national marketing act.

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), who is now leaving the House, spoke about our being amateurs. Well, I will say this: they are no longer amateurs in the opposition; they are professionals; they have been here so long that they have lost their amateur standing. This is a serious matter. It is all right to stand up here and play politics, which is what I appear to be doing at the moment.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pringle: The difference between members of the opposition and me is that I am admitting it. I am answering political expediency with political facts. They have found a little weakness in this bill which was written to provide the structure for a marketing act in Canada, with a provision for the producers to make their views known. Members of the opposition have prevented this. I suggest—and I believe both the producers and the opposition know it—that if the debate continues beyond this evening there is a distinct possibility that the bill will never get into committee. Perhaps the opposition has been