

ince of British Columbia which reads in parts as follows:

We do hold plebiscites in this province for marketing boards and therefore see no need for a further plebiscite to see whether or not they are prepared to join a national marketing agency since the provincial authority allows them to contract or deal directly with a national agency.

That is one point of view from my province. Every member of our party who desired to speak on this bill before the amendment was moved has done so. Therefore, I need say only a few words. The important thing is that representatives of the farm organizations and commodity groups be given an opportunity to appear before the Agricultural Committee in order to make their representations. It has been emphasized by other members of our party that we should make certain that the various producer groups and farm organizations have adequate representation on the National Farm Products Marketing Council which is to be instituted. They do not want to be merely part of an advisory body. They want to be part of the decision-making process which affects their livelihood and businesses.

I was particularly interested in the questions asked by the previous speaker at the end of his speech. I think they could be applied equally to any marketing board. I believe these questions have been answered many times, perhaps years ago, because we have seen many marketing boards develop for the benefit not only of consumers but the marketing or commodity groups they represent. I am unhappy that this important bill which was introduced on March 17 and last debated on May 19 was not brought back to the House until June 10. Along with the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth), I think we can be a little suspicious of the priority the government places on the bill and the urgency of this matter. I will follow my own advice at this point and sit down, in the hope that the bill will be referred to committee.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) wishes to make some comments, I wish he would get to his feet.

Mr. Whelan: I have heard enough from other peoples' feet; I do not want to do the same.

Mr. McCutcheon: That is where the hon. member makes the best sounds.

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Jamieson: What makes you think he isn't standing up now?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McCutcheon: If the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) wants to get into the act, let him do so. Mr. Speaker, I expect to speak for only five minutes; I propose to inflict myself upon the House for only that time. I agree with the principle of establishing a marketing board, but I have reservations about the way this one is proposed. Clause 3 of the bill provides:

There shall be a council to be known as the National Farm Products Marketing Council—

The bill goes on to say that it is to be appointed by the Governor in Council and will hold office during pleasure. It also says that the members of an agency shall be appointed by the Governor in Council to hold office at pleasure. This is the provision to which I object most strongly. I object to this paternalistic, Big Brother approach—that so far as the farmers of Canada are concerned Big Brother knows best what is good for them. Big Brother knows who is in, through licensing. Big Brother also will know who is not in, through licensing. Big Brother will know what is in, through licensing, and Big Brother will also know what is out. I suggest there will be more people with briefcases looking after the affairs of our farmers than there will be primary producers.

I do not know why the government could not have agreed many, many days ago to having primary producers on the National Farm Products Marketing Council or on the agencies. Had this been done, it would have avoided all this so-called holdup.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCutcheon: There is no reference whatever to primary producers in this context of the bill. I have known the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) for a long time and I hold him in high regard. I thought that so long as he held that portfolio there would be representation from primary producers. Why is the government afraid to include this provision as an amendment to the bill? I think the Minister of Agriculture would not object to it, because I have known him so long and I remember what he said on December 12, 1962—

Mr. Bell: I remember that, too.

Mr. McCutcheon: —in the House of Commons when speaking during a supply debate