

Agricultural Stabilization Act

(a) would not give to the producers of the commodity who are to be parties to the agreement or for whose benefit the agreement would be entered into, a financial advantage in the production or marketing of the commodity not enjoyed by other producers of the commodity in Canada;

Let us say two provinces have an agreement with the Federal Government, and a third province with a lower cost of production wants to join in that same commodity agreement. That province would, of course, be in a financially advantageous position *vis-à-vis* the production and marketing of the commodity. Would that mean that the province would be excluded from a previously implemented plan? If that is the case, I wonder what the amendment does other than nullify the Bill in its entirety. I am at a total loss to understand why the Government is proceeding with the Bill in this manner.

It is obvious that we have to get more agreement from producers and redefine what we are trying to do. Everyone wants stabilization. Everyone wants our farmers to be assisted. But we do not want the farmers of one part of the country pitted against the others. We do not want farmers of the same province but in different parts to be pitted against each other. That is not why we are here. What we all want is to assist the farming industry.

We can do something tonight for that industry. Let us get together and withdraw those gas price increases for the farmers of Canada. Let us do that right now. I am sure if you would seek unanimous consent of the House to withdraw that ridiculous tax increase you would get it.

Mr. Gottselig: Dream on.

Mr. Boudria: You see, again I over-estimated the Tories. I will never do that again. I thought at least some were in favour of farming, but perhaps I was wrong. Well, after the next election the new Liberal Government can take care of farmers, because obviously the Tories refused to do it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: That is very unfortunate. I am sure that if I spoke to my colleagues on this side they would want the farmers of Canada to pay less in gasoline taxes. I am sure all Liberals would agree with that right now. That is a good Liberal policy. But the Conservatives, while they are proceeding with this legislation, are creating this atmosphere of difficulty.

Mr. Wise: You are creating it.

Mr. Boudria: The Minister says I am creating that atmosphere.

Mr. Wise: Sure you are.

Mr. Boudria: He has repeated it. I am sure you have noted it, Mr. Speaker. I am sure he is aware that there are many commodity groups across this country—

Mr. Wise: That is right.

Mr. Boudria:—who appeared before our committee, some of whom were for and some of whom were against the measure. We even had one group come up with two resolutions, one saying they wanted top loading and the other saying they did not, and this from the same group.

Mr. Parry: They must be Liberals.

Mr. Boudria: What this Government should do is postpone this Bill, we should hear more from the farming community and obtain that very valuable consensus that the Hon. Member for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) referred to earlier. We should spend the summer listening to their concerns, so that when we do something we do it properly. Meanwhile, if we want to do something constructive tonight and tomorrow, let us reduce the gas taxes which the Minister of Finance is attempting to raise on the backs of the farmers of this country. That would be a good and constructive move at the present time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments.

Mr. Hawkes: I sat in this House in 1980 when the Government was defeated on the Budget over a gasoline tax. The Liberals came into government and transferred that tax burden to home-heating fuel which hurt the senior citizens of this country. Is that what the Member is proposing we do, increase taxes on home-heating fuel instead of motor vehicles, just like they did for so many years?

Mr. Boudria: That is an excellent question. The Member is asking where I propose to increase taxes. Well, I don't.

Mr. Towers: Then move over to your left.

Mr. Foster: I just wanted to ask the Hon. Member whether he thinks the Government should be plunging ahead with this Bill when the Alberta and Saskatchewan Ministers of Agriculture have expressed their concern and opposition to it. Many producer groups say they cannot understand the amendment the Minister has put forward. Does the Hon. Member feel it is wise to be plunging ahead with this Bill when there is no consensus?

As well, I am very conscious of the Hon. Member's concern about the two cent a litre gas tax which the Minister is going to impose in September. In the west they call that the new Tory harvest tax. The Hon. Member from Saskatchewan over there is very nervous because he knows that although the Liberal Government promised a \$16 million assistance program for northeastern Saskatchewan, the Tories only delivered about \$8 million. So he is obviously very nervous.

Mr. Taylor: The Liberals destroyed the west.

Mr. Foster: He also knows that the imposition of a 9 cent a gallon tax on farm fuels during the harvest this fall will be very bad.

Mr. Scowen: It is your tax, don't forget that.