

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I would suggest that at this stage the hon. member should not direct his remarks to all the amendments. He must direct his remarks to the amendment now before the House.

**Mr. Pringle:** In respect of this amendment I suggest that the only opposition to the bill came from cattlemen and some western hoggrower associations. The committee amended the act to assure commodity groups that no agricultural product could be included unless a majority of producers within the group favoured a national agency for their products. Even then, the council is only empowered to inquire into the merits of establishing such an agency.

Bill C-176 requires that at least 50 per cent of the council must be producers. It requires that a majority of each agency must also be producers. The bill also recognizes the ability of farmer-producers to accept the authority delegated to them under the act as well as the responsibility to safeguard the interests of all producers across Canada and provide consumers with high quality agricultural products at fair market prices. The time is overdue when farmers must be allowed the opportunity not only to overproduce but also to establish fair market prices. This is a privilege allowed all segments of our society but agriculture.

Bill C-176 is again before us. Opposition members have submitted 32 amendments. All these amendments were thoroughly discussed at the committee stage for hours and hours and they were all rejected, including this one. Judging from past experience and behaviour, if you will permit me to use this expression, all opposition members were asked to put an end to obstructionism and allow our producers the right to plan, establish and administer the marketing of their products.

If we were to allow debate on all these amendments we would be faced with some 2,000 speeches. Perhaps members of the opposition feel that farmers are generally naïve and do not realize the obstruction which is taking place. Let me assure them that farmers are well aware of the situation. I find it difficult to understand why my hon. friends to the left would be anxious to create chaos in Canada by wrecking markets in areas where orderly marketing already exists and where producers have put their house in order. We know these areas and we know that producers have their house in order. We know these people adopt restrictions under provincial laws only when they are required to do so to protect themselves. We hope they will look carefully at Bill C-176 and realize the government is attempting to do something to improve their position. We hope they will come to the understanding that hon. members opposite are clearly opposed to this bill.

I suggest the ball is now in the court of the opposition. I suggest respectfully and with humility that at this time hon. members opposite consider Canadian agricultural producers and do what they can to pass this bill tonight in order that we may accomplish what is necessary. In this way the producers can arrange their own plans and programs, and with the help of the government and its

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agencies they can take care of the chaotic situation which is already appearing on the horizon.

In my opinion and in the opinion of many other people, opposition to this proposal will create tremendous difficulties for Canadian farmers in months to come, particularly if we as responsible Members of Parliament do not resolve this situation tonight.

**Mr. Horner:** Now that the hon. member has finished—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Would the hon. member for Crowfoot indicate why he is seeking the floor?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I realize that the hon. member for Fraser Valley East has not yet used all his time. I wanted to ask him a question earlier but he declined to accept it. I am wondering now whether he would permit me to ask him that question. I assure you it will be simple, direct and will not require a long answer.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair is in no difficulty. When an hon. member has the floor and another hon. member indicates a desire to ask a question, the hon. member who has the floor must indicate his acceptance. The situation apparently has not changed. The hon. member, who has not exhausted his time, has still not indicated his willingness to accept a question.

**Mr. Pringle:** Mr. Speaker, I would hate myself all summer if I did not permit the hon. member to ask his question.

**Mr. Horner:** In light of the Supreme Court ruling, in view of the amendments to clauses 18 and 25 of the bill and the remark that the bill has been poorly drafted, does the hon. member believe it has been poorly drafted or is he going against the ruling of the Supreme Court in this regard?

• (8:20 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** Ask the question.

**Mr. Horner:** I have finished my question.

**Mr. Pringle:** The bill was very flexible. I agreed and made that statement; I put it in a public story. I said a lot more than that. But the bill has been amended. There are 28 amendments. All the amendments are acceptable to the producers of Canada. I receive letters every day from various commodity groups and from farmers throughout the country saying that we should pass the bill. It is a good bill now and is not a poorly drafted bill.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) that the judgment handed down by the Supreme Court makes almost any debate on this first amendment obsolete. However, I think there was an understanding when these amendments were first introduced on April 27 that we would deal with each one separately and that we would speak on amendment No. 1 in very general terms. With that understanding, I did not speak on it. However, I intend to deal with this one clause.