

have control over their own bailiwick. I think the penalties proposed could be tailored a little more realistically.

This House should consider where we are going with this type of legislation. Have we abandoned the idea of the individual having a right to his own destiny? Have we abandoned the idea that a man can make his best efforts if we give him a little freedom? Have we abandoned the idea that we all have a contribution to make, and that we really believe farming is a profession as noble as any other? Farmers do not need to be treated like children. They must be treated as fully participating members of the community. They demand a say in their own affairs. In committee we should examine the bill in detail. We should listen to the farm organizations, and to individual farmers who are not always properly and thoroughly represented by their organizations. The minister should listen to the well-meaning members of this House who want to help, who want to make this legislation work. There is a great deal of support for a national marketing act, but through it we should help the farmer control his own affairs.

• (4:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, we are now considering Bill C-197 to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council.

This bill authorizes also the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products. If we consider the structure and the framework created by this bill, we realize that under the National Farm Products Marketing Council, a number of national agencies will be set up. Each of those agencies will control a certain farm product. The agency will have in its service a certain number of inspectors who will poke their nose—therefore that of the government—into the private enterprise dealing with that product. Each of those agencies will also be governed by special regulations.

Through the National Farm Products Marketing Council and its agencies controlling the various farm products—and this is the first thing that strikes me in reading the bill—the government wants to take over private or family enterprise, which has always been in Canada the agricultural industry.

For instance, one can read in section 2, and I quote:

—in relation to any farm product that is not a regulated product includes—

22375—4

### *Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

—selling and offering for sale and buying, pricing, assembling, packing, processing, transporting, storing—

This control will be effected according to a marketing program which is explained in section 2, sub-sections (1) and following.

If I try to summarize the bill after having analyzed it, I find that the government wants first to control production (section 2); second, to control products and producers (section 34). Thirdly, it seeks to take hold of property; I am referring to sub-section (f) of section 23, on page 14 of the bill. Fourthly, it wants to control prices and, therefore, the producer's income, whatever it may be. I am referring here to sub-section (d) of section 2. Fifthly, the government wants to control—

—selling and offering for sale and buying, pricing, assembling, packing, processing, transporting, storing—

I am referring and I also refer my honourable colleagues to sub-section (d) of section 2. Sixthly, this government bill provides for the establishment and control of 100 per cent of the quotas for each of the following products: any natural agricultural product including meat, eggs, poultry, maple products and honey. I base this assertion on clause 2 (c) and (e). Furthermore, this control will be all-embracing and I quote clause 2 (e) (iii):

—the marketing of the regulated product on a basis that enables the agency that is implementing the plan to determine the quantity in which and the price, time and place at which the regulated product or any variety, class or grade thereof may be marketed in interprovincial or export trade;

To crown this masterpiece of control which the government wishes to exercise over an industry which has always been of a family and private nature, it intends, as stated in clause 2 (e) (iv) to control income by pooling it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the passage of this bill will be another important setback for private enterprise and individual freedom. It will mark a step forward for the socialist program advocated by the Liberal government in order to take over Canadian agriculture, and this, in every field. The producers of milk, honey, meat used to be on their own and now they will simply be civil servants, in the pay of an all-powerful boss, the federal government. It is the end, in short, of domestic agriculture and private initiative. This means full control of prices and incomes. From now on, the government will feed the Canadian people. Civil servants will be responsible for that.