

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. McBride: I am telling the truth.

Mr. Cadieu: Mr. Speaker, I have so much material in front of me that if I were to refer to it all tonight no one else would get a chance to speak. For instance, the British Columbia Beef Cattle Growers' Association has said:

As cattlemen, our members are greatly concerned and upset with the proposed federal compulsory marketing legislation—presented to the House of Commons as Bill C-176.

In every part of western Canada beef producers are opposed to this bill.

An hon. Member: But the United Church is not!

Mr. Cadieu: If you want to pass marketing legislation that will exempt beef cattle and calves and will give producers adequate representation on boards, then I say that if the people concerned see any future in the legislation I am sure they will come half way to meet you. But why try to shove it down their throats? They do not want it and they are not going to accept it. We will stay here and fight this legislation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cadieu: We are going to stay right here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: You bet we are.

Mr. Cadieu: And God help you if you people bring in closure to pass this bill. That will be the day, I can tell you.

Mr. Horner: Right on.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Meadow Lake should address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Nowlan: He was being provoked. The government is employing an agent provocateur.

Mr. Cadieu: Mr. Speaker, when you were kind enough to give me the floor I only wanted to speak to you.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cadieu: I was a bit intrigued by the hon. member's remarks this afternoon and I want to leave him with something he can take back to his constituency so that he can tell the truth about what is going on. No matter to which part of the country I turn, I hear protests against this bill. I have never received any encouragement to support it. We have groups that favour a marketing program such as is involved with our wheat pools but, by hell, the producers do not want this bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cadieu: We hear talk of producer control and a plebiscite. Under a democracy, people should have the right to say whether they will accept the bill or not. We have no grievance against Quebec. We would like them to buy our beef. We want to ship them lots of it and we will give them good beef, too. But we do not want them to tell

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

us that we are going to have a marketing board whether we like it or not.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cadieu: Mr. Speaker, I could go on in this vein at great length. However, since there are many others who want to speak I will say no more. I hope the minister will pay attention to us and heed our suggestions, and that he will come into this House with an appropriate amendment so that we can all get out of here.

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question? Is the hon. member in favour of the orderly marketing of wheat as through the Canadian Wheat Board?

Mr. Cadieu: Yes, I am very much in favour of it.

Mr. Roy (Laval): Then are we not doing the same thing in this bill?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy) may ask a question but he should not engage in debate. If there is a further question, perhaps the hon. member for Meadow Lake will receive it.

Mr. Cadieu: Mr. Speaker, we have the Wheat Board because we want it. We worked for it and we got it. That is why it is there. But we do not want a large marketing board for cattle, and we are protesting against it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Côté).

An hon. Member: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Richelieu.

[*Translation*]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Honey): Order. The hon. member for Richelieu has the floor.

Mr. Florian Côté (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, I am not rising on a point of order but simply to express my opinion on this bill which seems to me to be very poorly understood by hon. members opposite. For the last two years I have been wanting to express my opinion in this House on one of the most important pieces of legislation which many seem to consider to be a matter of feelings rather than serious legislation.

Since I seldom rise in this House because I have always considered the Commons as a place where we would try and pass legislation to fulfil our mandates as efficiently as possible, I was very disappointed to hear speeches which seemed to me to have separatist overtones.

• (9:30 p.m.)

There is an aspect of this legislation which does not seem to be understood. A few years ago, the Canadian farmer—I did not say from Quebec or Western Canada or the Maritime Provinces—was asked to try and provide consumers with products at the best possible prices, so that consumers—wherever commodities might be pro-