

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I ruled that it was not a point of order. I caution the Parliamentary Secretary against the temptation to respond. I suggest that we continue with the debate.

• (4:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

An hon. Member: There are still more absentees on the Cr ditiste side!

Mr. C t  (Richelieu): I accept your ruling, Mr. Speaker though I would have liked to answer the hon. member for T miscamingue (Mr. Caouette) in order to give him some information.

The hon. member for T miscamingue said a moment ago that it was not a problem of production but a problem of distribution. Yet, the main purpose of this bill is to try to ensure the distribution of products inside Canada.

No wonder, however, that he should fail to understand the purport of this bill, because I once went to a garage in T miscamingue in order to buy a car, and nobody ever brought out Cr ditiste theories to inform me about some way of financing the purchase of that car. They directed me to big business, and I could mention the amounts involved, because there were witnesses. Such are the principles which I find again when I listen to these gentlemen, here in the House, and I think it is unfortunate.

I can well imagine that the opposition should sometimes find it difficult to be up to its responsibilities when it comes to passing certain bills. But when a government as responsible as the present government asks us to pass measures as important and as anxiously awaited as this one, measures which I advocated myself before I came to this House, I fail to understand why the opposition criticizes them and say they will benefit the government politically. We introduce such bills even though we foresee the possibility of other problems cropping up, but at least we try to solve the problems of our constituents.

The hon. member for T miscamingue was asking a moment ago whether I was representing a party or my constituents. I could answer him that if he were as familiar as I am with the farming community, and if he had learned as I did what it is like to be a farmer, with problems facing us every day and getting worse, not because of the federal government, but due to natural causes,

sometimes of an international character, he would refrain from registering his opposition every time one tries to offer solutions to problems.

I would like to come back to a principle which has been outlined a moment ago by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle). Several opposition members will realize that I am not indulging in petty politics, for the hon. member, because Joliette is not on the government side. I admit that he was the first one, since I have been listening to speeches in this House, to express certain ideas to lead to the solution of this famous marketing problem. Unfortunately, the hon. member for T miscamingue failed to understand it because he would have seen these remarks in a different light. In his presentation, he considered the speech of the hon. member for Joliette in a somewhat limited context. In fact, he saw him carrying on marketing within a board of producers. Now, this already exists.

At the present time, in each of the ten provinces of Canada, there are boards of producers who try to ensure the marketing and distribution of products and even a quota system. The boards of producers themselves resort to that fine sometimes referred to by some opposition members. Of course, when a product is produced in a quantity that exceeds the volume of consumption in a province or an area, it must be shipped for consumption to some other province. Unfortunately, it is still necessary in order to help Quebec to flood the Ontario broiler market. However, Ontario dumps its eggs on the Quebec market. Why? There is a board of broiler and egg producers in Quebec and one in Ontario, but until a national marketing board is established, these provinces will compete frantically. It is for this reason that the present bill was introduced.

When the provinces realize that they can benefit by the use of certain federal powers, the federal government will be willing to yield to the provinces part of its jurisdiction. However, when the provincial governments find themselves unable to solve certain problems, they will delegate some of their powers to the central government. It is not the provinces that have asked this of the federal government, but the farmers generally, whom all hon. members of the opposition believe they are defending. The farmers are demanding it, and some opposition members say: It is not good. That is unfortunate because the government has spent a lot of time in drafting this bill. Will it solve all problems? No, it