

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

ruptcy. Farmers must be prepared to meet modern challenges. The farmer himself must manage his farm, his finances, his livestock and field operations. The marketing of produce is generally far removed from his farm. It is handled by somebody else, and on an individual basis the farmer generally gets skinned. This has happened to me, and most farmers have experienced it.

Many grain farmers in western Canada took a trimming until they joined together, formed pools and finally began to operate under the government Wheat Board. Experience in earlier days makes me think of the old farmer who, when grain was on the open market, always seemed to sell his when prices were lowest. At present I know some farmers who seem to sell their livestock only when prices are lowest. It is time they joined together to overcome this problem.

Despite its deficiencies, this bill does provide some leadership in the direction of orderly marketing. If farmers do not join together to solve their problems, someone else usually benefits. An example was given this afternoon of the large, integrator feed mill operator who decides to put birds out on contract, with the result that the farmer gets only 10 cents a bird. The farmer gets the short end of the stick. If farmers join together to solve their problems, such things might not happen.

During the dinner hour, Mr. Speaker, I phoned a farmer in my riding who has discussed this matter with me at some length to see if he had changed his opinion and to ask him whether we should proceed with a bill of this nature. Sometimes it is wise to check with the people back home. This farmer is a medium sized hog producer and also raises cattle and grows some grain. He told me that despite the deficiencies in the bill which I had mentioned to him, he would like to see it passed. There is no provincial hog marketing board in Saskatchewan. This farmer is concerned not only about the low prices he gets for his hogs, but he is worried that if the rest of the country organizes he, as a Saskatchewan farmer, might be frozen out of the market. For this reason he wants us to pass this bill.

We live in a changing world where we see multinational corporations running grocery and department stores. If there is a powerful bargaining agent on the side of the consumer, I would like to see the farmer put in the position to talk turkey to such people. I do not intend this as a pun, but certainly a turkey farmer needs to be able to talk turkey to such people and insist on an adequate price for his product.

We would like to see some changes made in the bill. As a western Canadian producer in an area from which we have traditionally moved surplus meat into eastern Canada I would like to see protected our historic rights in that respect. We would like to see a bargaining agency established to work for the farmer. If a forward price is set, the producer has the benefit of knowing what he may get next year for a particular product.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we would like to see adequate appeal provisions inserted in the bill so that if farmers are not satisfied their complaints may be heard. This appeal would not be to the agency but to the Crown. I am not suggesting that there will be problems, but we should be prepared to deal with them if problems arise. I know

[Mr. Thomson.]

there are other hon. members who wish to speak on the bill. I have no desire to monopolize the time of the House. In conclusion, I wish to say I am in support of orderly marketing, especially for farm products that are presently in trouble, and we should move right away to do something about it.

• (8:10 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, it is with some apprehension that I take part in this debate on a bill to establish marketing agencies for farm products on a national scale. I am convinced all hon. members know to what extent the government wishes to find a solution to the slump in agriculture.

I am also convinced that it is not by adjourning the House, as proposed this afternoon the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), that we will solve the problem of the farmers.

When you received that request, Mr. Speaker, you called in the members, which gave us a chance, through a recorded division, to see to what extent the leaders of the Progressive Conservative party, the New Democratic Party and the Social Credit party are interested in the debate. Indeed, the Canadian people will note tomorrow when reading *Hansard* that those three leaders were away, but that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was present.

Mr. Speaker, it shows how much we want to help the farming industry, how much we are concerned by its problems and how much the government members wish to approve such a—

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has been speaking about a vote which took place this afternoon. It is against the rules of the House of Commons to reflect on a vote already taken. Secondly, the vote was on a procedural matter. It was on whether we have representative government in Canada. It was not on Bill C-176. The hon. member has been implying that in essence the vote was connected with Bill C-176.

An hon. Member: You were not here.

Mr. Horner: I was here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have listened closely to the remarks of the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Roy). In my opinion he was not reflecting on the vote. He made an observation about the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) moving the adjournment of the House. In fairness to the hon. member, he did not reflect on the vote.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Horner: That vote was not on Bill C-176.

Mr. Roy (Laval): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for calling the hon. member to order. I have heard him for two years in the Standing Committee on Agriculture. On the 23rd of March last, I had to listen to him until 8:20 a.m. So, I