

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

One of the reasons many people in farming have been fearful of what is taking place, and of some of the features of this bill, is the recent experience of the House in regard to the supply management principle. An example is Operation Lift which operated in a harsh and brutal fashion toward many farmers in western Canada. It had the limited objective of reducing grain production in the prairie provinces. By itself, that objective has some merit, but the way the plan was imposed upon farmers brought a great deal of hardship in many cases. Farmers were forced to go along with the plan if they were to have any grain quota for the particular year. I suggest this was a misuse of the power given to the Canadian Wheat Board by the Canadian Wheat Board Act. This experience soured many farmers on the concept of supply management.

The experience with the Canadian Dairy Commission, and particularly the way in which subsidies for grain producers affected farmers in some parts of Canada, is another example. In my own province of Saskatchewan many farmers had their grain subsidy cut off with no hope of being able to get back into production regardless of the circumstances, and with no hope of qualifying for subsidy in the future even though they had good reason for withdrawing from grain production for a period of time. The result is that the grain quota allocated to the province of Saskatchewan dropped from 15 million pounds in 1967 to about 9 million pounds in the current year. This is a direct result of the policies of the Canadian Dairy Commission and of the supply management concept they were using.

The concept of supply management can, I think, be perfectly consistent with the principle of orderly marketing, but it depends on the way it is carried out and upon the acceptance of a wider set of objectives than the limited objective of relating production to immediate market demand.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is on the amendment to the motion moved by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) for Mr. Gleave, seconded by Mr. Burton.

I invited comments from hon. members a short while ago to ascertain whether hon. members wanted to participate in this debate. If there are hon. members who want to participate in the debate on the amendment to the motion, this would have to be done after the dinner hour. For the moment, I believe the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) rises on a point of order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

MOTION AUTHORIZING STANDING COMMITTEE TO SIT DURING RECESS AND TRAVEL OUTSIDE CANADA

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to tell the

House that I have had discussions with members of other parties with respect to terms of reference that might be given by the House to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. This matter has been pending for some time and I thought now might be a good time, if I had consent, to ask that this motion be carried so that the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization would be able to do some work during the recess.

Mr. Speaker: Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

That the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization be authorized to consider the Standing Orders of the House and procedure in both the House and in its committees with special regard to all the matters that Mr. Speaker has suggested during the twenty-eighth Parliament may require the consideration of the said committee, and to report to the House its views on any facets thereof that may require reform and to recommend what manner of reform may be required;

And that, during its consideration of the aforementioned matters and of the question of broadcasting of the House, the said committee shall be authorized to adjourn from place to place outside Canada provided that such adjournment from place to place shall not take place when the House is sitting;

And that the necessary staff shall accompany the committee.

I may add, Mr. Speaker, that I do not foresee that the Caribbean countries will provide any valuable experience to the committee in reaching their conclusions.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MARKETING COUNCIL AND AGENCIES

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-176, to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, motion No. 27 (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre, for Mr. Gleave) and the amendment thereto of Mr. MacEachen.