

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

independent of the control of the huge producer and that the small farmer might obtain some measure of control over his own affairs in Canada. For that reason I am impatient with the chronic complaints that we have heard, with the filibustering we witnessed in connection with Bill C-197 and which is continuing in the discussion of Bill C-176.

**Mr. Horner:** Nothing could be farther from the truth.

**Mr. McBride:** Of course, we all know—there is no need for me to point this out to the hon. member for Crowfoot or to any other person in Canada—that this bill requires that at least 50 per cent of the makeup of the council be farmers. The same requirement is to be applied to the marketing agencies that will thereafter come into being. That means that if an agency is set up to market pork, at least 50 per cent of those controlling or making up that agency must be hog producers, and it would only be set up if the majority wanted it in the first place. Perhaps the hon. member and others in Canada have very little confidence in the leadership and judgment displayed by those who produce the various agricultural commodities in this country. Perhaps he and others are afraid of permitting the control of the agricultural industry to fall into the hands of farmers.

I am not so afraid and am prepared and willing to submit two points to this House. First, I submit that it is high time the farmers of this nation had in their hands the legislative tools and equipment to bring the order that they in their wisdom wish to bring to the marketing of their own commodities. That is an elementary right, and it amazes me to see even the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski), from whom one expects a reactionary position, standing up in opposition.

**Mr. Horner:** At least he is a farmer and knows what he is talking about.

**Mr. McBride:** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that it is high time for us to be prepared to say to those who are producing any particular product "You know best." It is not for us to determine whether they do know best; that is not a matter for Members of Parliament or for bureaucrats but for the people within the agricultural industry to decide.

The main purpose of this bill is to place control over production and prices of commodities in the hands of farmers, as spelled out in the various clauses of the bill. The bill's purpose is to place into the hands of the producers of a product the control over that product if and when the producers want such powers.

Why are we so afraid to give producers power over their own product? Why are we so afraid, for instance, that if these powers are permitted of producers, the beef producers of Canada might somehow choose a course of action that would not suit a few of the big producers?

If we are not afraid of this, I cannot understand the position that has been taken by organizations such as the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. That group has kept assuring us of its position. They say that the producers of any commodity should not come under this bill if they do not want to come under it. When we say that we are ready to assure them that they have nothing to fear from the bill and that we have amended the bill in a couple of places to

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take care of their fears, it turns out that they are still unhappy. They say "No; we want to go one step farther. We want no cattle at all to be included in the bill. We want the bill to provide that cattle are specifically excluded."

From that position I can draw only one conclusion, namely that there are those in the livestock and cattle industry in Canada who have a deep and abiding fear that if there were to be a plebiscite on the question of whether a marketing plan should be established for the production of beef, such a plebiscite might carry.

**An hon. Member:** Nonsense.

**Mr. McBride:** Many suggest, "You know, if there were such a plebiscite and it carried, many little producers who do not have much influence at present would obtain as much influence as the big producers." To that I would say yes, that is correct.

**Mr. Horner:** Perhaps at the end of January, the hon. member will understand what is involved.

**Mr. McBride:** The time has come for people to stand up in the parliament of Canada and on the platforms of Canada and say they are prepared to fight for the little producers, and not just for the big producers.

**An hon. Member:** Hogwash.

**Mr. McBride:** If hon. members are not afraid of the little producer, why are they afraid of this bill? I say to the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), who seems to be the spokesman for the association and who is most impatient in his remarks, that if he is not afraid of what the majority believes, he has nothing to fear from this bill.

**Mr. Horner:** I agree.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McBride:** On the other hand, if he is afraid that somehow the majority of the very producers about which I am concerned will not vote the way he wants them to vote, what means has he available? What must one do in such a case, Mr. Speaker? I suggest that one has to do the same thing one must do in the destruction of any democracy: one has to prevent the question from being considered. Do not let the vote come. Do not let beef be included, because "the day might come when the beef producers would want something that I as an individual and a few of my wealthy cronies do not want." I deplore that attitude. I deplore that such a position has been taken in the House.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member on a question of privilege. I wish that hon. members would keep order in the House so that the Chair might follow the speech. There has been so much shouting that it has been almost impossible for the Chair to follow the speech. I recognize the hon. member for Crowfoot.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**An hon. Member:** Again?