

Champagne

tion, on the good will and co-operation of members of parties opposite. Nevertheless, I thought that it was important that I rise and at least be on record as having approved of this bill and, if nothing else, to indicate my new found interest—I must confess that it is not a new-found interest in wine—perhaps an ongoing interest—I have for the area once represented in the provincial legislature by the hon. member for the New Democratic Party, with whom I have a very good rapport outside the House.

● (1550)

I am pleased with the passage of this bill because it legalizes something which the government indicated several years ago, the end to a protocol and a trade agreement with France which goes back to the 1930s when in fact our wine industry left much to be desired. What this bill is doing is legalizing the intent expressed by the government some years ago, and thus eliminating the possibility of legal action.

The hon. member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) is a very astute politician and has served his country very well at all levels. For instance, he was the mayor of St. Catharines when it allowed that beautiful wine-growing area on the outskirts of the city to be absorbed into the urban sprawl. It must have been a very difficult decision for the mayor to, on the one hand, go along with the developers and, at the same time, express the interests he has expressed today, which are so well known to the farmers. It is a dilemma which the hon. member from Hamilton has pointed out.

Surely the greatest defence which the farm community has against further spreading of the urban sprawl or the cement jungle, is in time to make certain that the farmer has a decent income from his land. This is why I must pay tribute, at the risk of sounding partisan, which is not my intention, to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). The people of Lincoln County, and particularly those from the town of Grimsby, tell me that the Minister of Agriculture is responsible for the development of a small but growing brandy industry. Through the minister's efforts some years ago, the cabinet of the day was persuaded to provide moneys needed to buy up certain grapes which, in turn, were turned over to Canada's one company that can legitimately say it produces Canadian brandy. This is an indication that the wine industry, particularly in the Niagara Peninsula, has friends on all sides.

Again, I must gently say to the hon. member for St. Catharines that the tax which was imposed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) some weeks ago is, in my opinion, detrimental to the wine industry. I am rather sorry to see the tax implemented, but I must again remind the hon. member for St. Catharines that, although it is not the subject of discussion today, the tax is nothing more than a total and complete replica of the tax proposed by the previous government. I am sure that the hon. member is quite accurate when he said that the former minister of finance did agree, during the election campaign, to review that particular tax. However, it should not go unnoticed that the present Minister of Finance made the same commitment the other day in the House.

In conclusion, I do not wish to end in a partisan role, nor do I wish to express different opinions from those of the hon. member for St. Catharines. I am very pleased that the members of all parties from the Niagara Peninsula have been able to put aside their partisan differences for the common good of the wine industry in our part of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan).

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. If the Chair has difficulty with my name, I have—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair might have difficulty, but, as a point of order, the Chair prefers to be known as Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nowlan: I agree, sir, but if the Chair has difficulty with my name, I have difficulty with gender.

I am rising briefly, Mr. Speaker, because I know that there has been all-party agreement to move this bill through all its stages into law, and to get the bill to the other place for royal assent today. It will basically help the industry. I appreciate that the members from the Niagara Peninsula have a little more direct interest in the wine industry.

The only reason that I rise is to forewarn the minister, although I know full well that he is from another area of the good province of Ontario, that in other provinces, and including Ontario, there is another problem, not with champagne or Champlaign, but with apple cider. Without getting into the details of the controversy, and in view of the fact that the Horticultural Council of Canada has passed resolutions on the problem of sweet cider and apple drink which, if resolved, will help the productivity and/or the income and well-being of the farmers of this land, I would like to put the minister on notice that while I certainly am in approval today and do not wish to hold up passage of this bill, I was thinking at one point—before I realized there was all-party agreement—that if the bill had anything to do with liquids I would use it to make sure that, no matter what liquid it was, we would talk about cider.

Whether it be in the House, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, or by letter, hopefully we will be able to move the horticulture resolutions on the sweet cider problem to a satisfactory conclusion as we are doing today with the matter under discussion in Bill S-5.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I was champing in pain a little bit, as it were, as I listened to the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey). Has any hon. member ever tried to order Canadian wine on Air Canada? It is impossible. I agree with just about everything which the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) said, but I would point out that there is a wine industry in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. It is a very good wine industry. As a matter of fact I tried to bring some sample bottles here for some hon. members so that they might try them. I refer to the new wines which are being made in the Okanagan Valley,