

Government Orders

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to make a few comments on Bill C-15 this morning.

I would just like to point out to the House through you, Mr. Speaker, that we in the Liberal party did have some concerns with this bill regarding plant breeders rights. However, we feel fairly satisfied with the processes we went through in the legislative committee where we heard many people with concerns both pro and con for the bill and we had some good discussions.

We feel that this bill could be improved yet, as indicated by the amendments we have put forward, but it appears that the government will not go along with them. However, we feel that the bill has been strengthened to quite an extent. We were pleased to take part in this process and to insist, to the best of our ability, to strengthen that bill. In the bill's original form, the advisory committee was not necessary. We now have agreement from the government that that advisory committee shall be appointed. It is not the prerogative of the minister any more.

We felt very strongly that that advisory committee could serve a very useful capacity in advising the commissioner, who will be put in place with the Act, in the interpretation of the Act. The advisory committee will also be in the position to give advice to commissioners as far as the requirements of regulating and licensing are concerned.

In committee we were very pleased to get the interpretation of the terms "reasonable price" and "widely distributed", as well as those interpretations that did not necessarily exist before. Because of the improvements that have been made to the bill, the commissioner will have to define what "reasonable price" and "widely distributed" are.

We would certainly like to see the passage of the amendments contained in Motion No. 9. We feel that when the reporting stages of this bill take place over the years they would broaden the report and address some of the concerns that other people have.

However, in its so-called wisdom, it is my understanding that the government does not wish to do that. I think, without question, that it is a disappointment to the agri-food industry and to many other Canadians.

I have spoken in the House from time to time about management tools, the agri-food system and the abilities that we have in the system to make our agri-food industry and our primary producer sector, in particular, competitive throughout Canada and the world. That is the name of the game. We must be competitive and have the same abilities as our competitors in order to do that.

During the legislative committee debate, the government provided us with an agreement that has taken place between Agriculture Canada and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which ensures that reporting has to be made on any transactions and any actions that are taken.

There have been concerns, but we feel that, as a result of the effectiveness of the legislative committee and the work that was done there, we could still make some more improvements. However, for the time being, we feel that this bill is sufficient to fulfil the needs requested by the industry for many years.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The question is on Motion No. 9. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the nays have it.

An Hon. Member: On division.

Motion No. 9 (Mr. Foster) negatived.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Normally, at this time, the House would proceed to taking the deferred division of report stage of the bill now before the house. However, pursuant to Standing Order 45(6), the recorded division will stand deferred until 7.00 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 1990.