

nis). That is the well-founded rule, when dealing with co-operative movements, of one member, one vote. The hon. member pointed out exceptions to this rule on page 2 of the bill, and also raised the matter of proxy voting. These are questions that will have to be answered by the committee.

In general, however, Mr. Speaker, I think that the objectives of the bill are good and we will support it, but I hope the minister will be very careful in administering this type of legislation.

**Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the minister for bringing forward this bill on co-operatives. It is another important measure to bring social justice and economic power to the people of Canada. During the twenty-seventh Parliament I sat on the Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the Senate on Consumer Prices with the minister who at that time was one of the joint chairmen.

**Mr. Bell:** He was never there. Senator Croll did all the work.

**Mr. McGrath:** The minister just took the credit.

**Mr. Allmand:** Someone said that the minister was not there. I should like to make it very clear to this House that the hon. member who was the joint chairman of the committee with Senator Croll was there morning, noon and night working persistently—

**Mr. Baldwin:** How many nights?

**Mr. Allmand:** —with the committee to bring out what I believe to be one of the best reports of any parliamentary committee. During the hearings before that committee there were many requests from consumer groups in Canada for legislation to assist co-operatives. One of the principal recommendations of the committee report was instrumental, I believe, in leading to this bill.

Ever since my days as a student at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, I have been an enthusiastic supporter of the co-operative movement. I note that the hon. member who spoke before me referred to that particular university. In Antigonish I had the good fortune to observe the work of Coady, Macdonald, Boyle, Laidlaw and many others who worked with fishermen, miners and farmers in Nova Scotia and taught them, in the words of Monseigneur Coady, how to be "masters of their own destiny" through the work of the co-operative movement. As the hon. member who spoke before me pointed out, in Antigonish at the Coady International Institute people from all over the world are being taught about the co-operative movement. I found it a thrilling experience going down there two weeks ago.

● (8:30 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** Nova Scotia is always great.

**Mr. Allmand:** I agree with the hon. member. I was there with the Committee on Constitution and at that

time I had an opportunity of examining the work of the Coady International Institute. I was thrilled to see that a movement begun by the people of Nova Scotia to help other people had spread to the far corners of the world.

May I also say that several years ago I had the opportunity to be involved in a study program in India. We visited a small town in India where they decided to show a group of students from all parts of the world a film on the co-operative movement. The film they showed us in that small town had been prepared in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The film was being used in that village project in India to teach people how to gain economic power for themselves through the co-operative movement.

I think that the pioneers of Rochdale and those of the Antigonish movement to which the hon. member referred, as well as those in Scandinavia and many other parts of the world, have proved that through co-operative people can to a great extent be masters of their own destiny. They can have greater influence over their economic circumstances through means of their influence over production, marketing, investments and savings.

Co-operatives have been extremely effective in breaking monopolies and in keeping the opposition honest, to use a football phrase. They do not always need to correct injustices. Merely by being there they keep those with whom they work "on the level" and keep the market honest. Co-operatives in Canada and elsewhere have been successful in the area of production. This is particularly true in respect of farmers, fishermen, people with orchards and others engaged in basic types of production. They have been extremely successful in the field of the consumer, right in my constituency in Montreal. There, many people with low incomes are organizing consumer co-operatives in an attempt to overcome ever-increasing prices of consumer goods. I have personally encouraged them to carry on their work, although it is difficult at this time for people in cities to organize and keep the co-operatives together.

I have also been impressed with attempts that have been made over the years to establish co-operatives in the field of housing. Again, one should look at examples in Nova Scotia where I believe there have been successes in the field of co-operative housing. Credit unions are another type of co-operative venture. Caisses populaires in Quebec have also done much to help their people in this regard.

On the whole, Mr. Speaker, I think this is very good legislation. The co-operative movement in Canada has been requesting it. Many of its details will be examined in committee, but in principle the basis of this legislation is sound. I do not wish to speak too long; I merely wish to say that I am gratified the bill is before the House, because I worked for some months with the Joint Committee on Consumer Prices in 1966 and 1967 and I have been waiting for this legislation to come forward. I congratulate the minister for bringing it forward at this time.

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have the opportunity to participate in the