

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

catastrophe will befall that industry. Why does he say that, when every honest and conscientious member of this House knows that no cattleman in Canada is to be brought inside the provisions of the bill unless that is requested? That feature is not compulsory; there is no compulsion whatsoever. Actually, no product will be included unless substantial numbers of farmers involved in the raising it ask that it be included. This applies not only in Quebec, not just in Ontario, not just in the west but all over Canada.

Let me remind hon. members that for the first time since 1867 we have a bill that is 100 per cent producer-oriented.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: May I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that before this bill can become more effective, before any councils can be set up or any agencies appointed, it must be ascertained—and this is in the bill—that over 50 per cent of the members are bona fide farmers.

An hon. Member: Is that in the bill?

Mr. Whicher: Yes, it is in the bill.

Mr. McBride: Read the bill.

Mr. Whicher: I am pleased to say that this provision was recommended by the opposition and accepted as a sensible recommendation by the government. We agree that the bill should be agriculturally oriented, that farmers should run it; and all we are asking for tonight is that we go a step forward and pass the bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I say this most respectfully to my Conservative friends from western Canada. I know how the Ontario fellows stand. They may not stand up and say so. Nevertheless, I know that the agricultural producers, including the beef producers, hog producers, honey producers and producers of other agricultural products in Ontario and in Quebec, as well as in the eastern provinces, are for this bill. I also know that the only people who are against the bill—I respect their opinion; I see an hon. member looking at me who opposes the bill, and I respect his opinion—are certain hon. members from the west. Let us call a spade a spade. The people who are against this bill are western Tories.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McBride: They don't want to hear the truth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McBride: They don't want to hear the truth.

[Mr. Whicher.]

• (9:10 p.m.)

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I really do not need your help, but I appreciate it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whicher: If these fellows think they are going to scare me, they are on the wrong side of the fence.

Mr. Hees: Come on, Ross.

Mr. Whicher: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what a fine, Christian gentleman the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees) is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: The thing is that he lost the last election and does not know it yet. The reason he is sitting to the left of Mr. Speaker is because his party lost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: Many years ago, Mr. Speaker, a great—

Mr. Hees: He seems to have lost a little of his steam.

Mr. Whicher:—world citizen, speaking—

Mr. Hees: Get him to tell us about the provincial Liberals in Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. Whicher: The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings does not have many faults, but every time he opens his mouth he exaggerates the ones he has.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: The hon. member may be all right asking questions of the government, but when it comes to a battle of wits with backbenchers he will lose every time.

Mr. Hees: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the hon. member to tell us how the provincial Liberals in Ontario and Quebec—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hees: Come on, tell us. I just want to hear, that's all.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair has no difficulty ruling out the point of order raised by the hon. member.

Mr. Whicher: I am not going to answer the hon. member. I could say that I don't know, or something like that, but I am not going to give him an answer.

Mr. Hees: I'll say you won't.

Mr. Whicher: I will give you the answer which you sometimes get. I am going to give it in two ways. There are two answers to this question and they are both yes.

Mr. Hees: Let's have them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair is of the opinion that we are straying far from the