

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

Quebec farmers support the bill. It is difficult to know where the truth lies.

**Mr. McIntosh:** You tell us.

**Mr. Faulkner:** I intend at least to present the views, as I understand them, of the people I represent. If they disagree with what I say today, they will be at liberty to correct me later.

My second reason for entering this debate is that I was deeply disappointed by some of the contributions made yesterday. I was disappointed for a variety of reasons, because what was said in many cases was far from the truth. In practically all cases those statements were made by members for whom I have some respect. The first contribution I shall deal with is that of the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) who argued—I am sorry he is not here—that this government was trying to force farmers off the farm. Incidentally, these remarks derived from an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of December 24, written by Mr. Paul Grescoe. The bulk of the hon. member's argument derived from that particular article. The brunt of that article is as simple as it is false. It is a clear example of yellow journalism. The article argues that this government and the Department of Agriculture are systematically engaged in a plan of removing the small family farmer from the face of this earth.

**Mr. McIntosh:** That is what the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) says.

**Mr. Faulkner:** That was the position taken by the hon. member for Timiskaming.

**Mr. Peters:** Well, was that not the minister's position?

**Mr. Faulkner:** The article was written on December 24 and the hon. member's contribution was on December 28. I should like to put on record what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) said on December 6. The press release was made available to the hon. member for Timiskaming but apparently was not available to Paul Grescoe who is less important in this debate than the hon. member. I am less concerned about him than I am about the hon. member for Timiskaming, for no doubt he will speak again. Perhaps we have seen the final article written by Mr. Grescoe. Let me quote what the minister said.

**An hon. Member:** Not what Grescoe wrote.

**Mr. Faulkner:** I will not quote Paul Grescoe; I will not quote what the *Citizen* said and I will not repeat any rumours being bandied about as to the government's intentions. I want to quote what the Minister of Agriculture said on December 6.

**Mr. McIntosh:** On what subject, livestock?

**Mr. Faulkner:** If the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh) will listen, he will know exactly what the minister said.

**Mr. McIntosh:** I know. I heard him say it.

**Mr. Faulkner:** The minister was talking about the small farms development program. He said:

What we are proposing is a relatively new approach to tackle a problem that has been plaguing the agricultural industries of the developed nations of the world for several decades—

[Mr. Faulkner.]

Economic forces have driven thousands of farmers off the land and into the cities and, at the same time, have promoted the evolution of big farms requiring a high level of investment in land, machinery, livestock and buildings.

While there is a need for some farm consolidation to take place, it would be unwise to allow the current trends to result in the domination of agriculture by a handful of giant corporate farms—

**Mr. Peters:** I agree with that.

**Mr. Faulkner:** That is what the Minister of Agriculture said. He goes on:

Unless we develop new and workable programs, there are many farmers in Canada and, indeed, entire rural communities, that will be threatened if this trend should develop further.

Economic studies and practical experience suggest that the family farm is the best type of farm, and it is in this context that we have developed a comprehensive program to help the small farmers of Canada to develop profitable family farms—

That is the position of this government.

**Mr. Chrétien:** That is our policy and it is a good policy.

**Mr. Faulkner:** That is precisely our position, and I have repeated it so that hon. members of this House who might have heard at second-hand the policies of this government would have a chance to be clear in their minds as to the government's policies, in order that they might explain the government's intentions. Hon. members know as well as I do that nothing in the world is easier than sowing suspicion and doubt in the minds of people who do not have access to this chamber.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Tell us what the minister said about Bill C-176.

**Mr. Faulkner:** Such people may not be clear as to what the government intends to do.

**Mr. Horner:** Is the hon. member talking about this bill?

**Mr. Faulkner:** I now want to turn to other matters. The words I quoted were said on December 6 by the Minister of Agriculture.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Is the hon. member sure that he does not have remarks about Bill C-259 in his hand?

**Mr. Knight:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Knight:** No, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. member entertain a question?

**Mr. Faulkner:** When I am through, Mr. Speaker, after I have outlined the government's position. That is what the Minister of Agriculture said on December 6. Let me now read from page 3 of the statement to do with the small farms development program as follows:

When we first announced the outline of this program earlier this year, many people interpreted it as a program to force thousands of farmers off the land, a program to make the rich farmer richer and to force the poor farmer out of business.

This is not the case.

On the contrary, we intend to help small farmers to develop thriving family farms.

Some misinterpreted our intentions and warned that our program would turn many rural towns and villages into ghost towns.