

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). The Chair did have some doubt whether the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle) was in order. In fact, when the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rose I was looking very closely at the motions which have been set down for consideration. At this stage of the proceedings, while the House is considering motions at the report stage, all hon. members must direct their remarks to the particular motion before us and I would ask the hon. member for Fraser Valley East to do that.

Mr. Pringle: I thank the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who has been here a couple of generations longer than I have. I do not know if there comes a time when one has been here too long. In my opening remarks I am referring to the amendments to this bill. You understand, Mr. Speaker, that there are 32 amendments. They have already been discussed hour after hour in committee.

Mr. Horner: May I direct a question to the hon. member?

• (8:10 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member who has the floor can consent to a question being asked. If there is consent the Chair will allow the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) to ask a question.

Mr. Horner: I understood the hon. member would permit a question, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pringle: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a very humble remark. I have been interrupted by the hon. crow from "Memberfoot"—I mean, the hon. member for Crowfoot. I apologize for that slip. That hon. member has continually interrupted tonight and did so during the committee stage, and if you do not mind, Sir, I should like to finish my remarks.

Mr. Horner: I rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: I am rising on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member for Crowfoot wishes to ask a question. If the hon. member for Fraser Valley East is not prepared to accept a question at this point, I can only remind the House that the hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Horner: I am rising on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Mr. Horner: No, Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Horner: I hear a lot of catcalls. I did not hear the hon. member for Fraser Valley East refuse to accept a question. I have known him and participated with him in debates for many years, and he has always been prepared to answer questions.

An hon. Member: Oh, sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: I do not think he would refuse to answer a question at this time.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair makes no exceptions in respect of hon. members. It is apparent to the Chair that the hon. member for Fraser Valley East is not prepared to accept a question.

Mr. Horner: It is not obvious in this part of the House.

Mr. Pringle: Mr. Speaker, I will take only a moment in concluding my remarks. I sincerely regret having aroused the ire of my hon. friend. I had no intention of doing that.

Mr. Horner: Would you permit a question?

Mr. Pringle: Mr. Speaker, I want to make one point as simply and as humbly as possible regarding some of the problems we have experienced over the past two or three years.

Mr. Horner: Would you permit a question.

Mr. Pringle: I will make this point as quickly as possible and then—

Mr. Horner: Would you permit a question?

Mr. Pringle: The standing committee has already spent 37 days examining the amending Bill C-176. The committee made several amendments to the bill, including the one which is now before us for consideration. I do not know how many hours the committee spent discussing each amendment and I do not know how many hours members of the committee listened to the arguments put forward by spokesmen for the opposition. In any event, I know this amendment is one which was rejected after a great deal of consideration. A number of amendments were accepted by the committee, not all of which were presented by government members. I am sure some of the amendments were presented by members of the opposition.

During the last few weeks when we were discussing the amendments at the committee stage we decided some of them would be of benefit. We all listened with great interest—

Some hon. Members: Order.