

*Agricultural Policies*

that affect the producer and the consumer. We are absolutely opposed to a bill superimposing on all segments of agriculture a board appointed by the government. No matter how well-intentioned or sincere the government or the minister may be, that is still bureaucratic control of a basic industry and we are not prepared to swallow the underlying principle of Bill C-197 without getting into a debate, not on semantics but on the question of whether this is socialization of the most sophisticated kind of the agricultural industry of Canada.

If the government thinks this type of bill is good for agriculture, it may soon ask why is it not good for another primary product. Why is this type of bill not good for the oil industry? Oil is another primary product. The government may well say, "Let us take it away from the Energy Board and put it under a marketing board." Let us speak about lumber in British Columbia. What would happen if they had a board which first of all determined who could grow the product or cut the trees, and then how many trees could be cut down? That is the purport of Bill C-197, Mr. Speaker.

● (3:30 p.m.)

I think the Minister without Portfolio is a young minister with some promise, although the promise has become tarnished with the responsibilities of his office and with the load of the Lift program—that is not meant to be a pun—which is unfortunately breaking the back of the young Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon. This is the time of year when he could have been marking exam papers at the law school of Saskatchewan. No doubt he would find that task much lighter than trying to support the Lift program.

The thing that amazed me and indicated his inexperience—just the same as the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew (Mr. McBride)—was when he uttered a few comments on the whole parliamentary process, saying in answer to a member on this side of the House that there was a filibuster on Bill C-197. Regardless of the principle of Bill C-197 on which hon. members can honestly disagree, because my interpretation may be extreme and others may have an interpretation equally as extreme, let us look at the facts involved which make hollow and hypocritical the words of the Minister without Portfolio when he uttered "filibuster" a few minutes ago, and the words of the Minister of Agriculture when he said "filibuster" some time ago.

**Mr. Olson:** I said that sincerely.

**Mr. Nowlan:** That shows how sincere the minister is, if that is how he looks at it. But I am too good a friend of his in the House or away from the House—or I was—to accept his standard of sincerity. If that is his standard of sincerity, then I have to watch what I say to him outside the House because you cannot be serious, Mr. Minister—I say this through you, Mr. Speaker—in talking about a filibuster on a bill as important as C-197 when there have spent a total of 17 hours—

**Mr. Olson:** Seven days.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Oh, no. Let me come to that, Mr. Speaker, and see if the minister disagrees with these facts. There has been a total of 17 hours, spread over nine weeks, ranging from a minimum of a half-hour debate to three or four hours of debate on any one day.

**Mr. Lang:** With no one saying anything new.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Seventeen hours spread over nine weeks! If the Minister without Portfolio had ever been exposed to Parliament before he walked out of the ivory tower of law school and got seated by the seat of his pants on the treasury benches, he would know what filibuster means. When I put to him, as I put to the minister, that the task force which they both swear by—or swear at, maybe—says that 10,000 agencies, committees and commodity groups will be affected by Bill C-197, and 120 marketing agencies will be directly affected by it, then I refuse to accept the minister's saying he was sincere when he said it was a filibuster on such a basic bill involving such a basic industry.

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question?

**Mr. Nowlan:** Yes, certainly.

**Mr. Olson:** I should like to ask the hon. member if he is prepared to accept the responsibility and face the farmers if he will not lift the blockade on this bill so that it will get through the House this session.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I am in no position to commit anybody, but I say to the minister that this bill has not been in this House since May 19.

**Mr. Olson:** It has been in here for seven days.