

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

An hon. Member: They won't.

Mr. Olson: They will, but they will get it right.

Mr. Woolliams: Then let me tell you what will happen after you have the council appointed. You have the orders made which give the government more power. What will happen then? Then without the knowledge of Parliament you could make a proclamation saying, "All the cattle, all the hogs of Canada, all the poultry of Canada, all the eggs of Canada, all the soybeans of Canada, all the corn Canada produces are now under this very free-minded Liberal board." That is what is inside this bill. The minister looks sad. He should feel sad, as a Minister of Agriculture from western Canada.

Mr. Olson: I am sad at your misinterpretation.

Mr. Woolliams: The minister should feel sad, remembering what he stood for when he was a member of the Social Credit Party. He must remember that Mr. Aberhart told certain governments to keep their hands off business. So did Premier Manning. Now the Minister of Agriculture endorses this Liberal, dictatorial pragmatism that treats the farmers just like Stalin did the Kulaks when he made them all serfs. *Time* magazine, which has some sort of charisma with the government, may say this is extreme language. It has to be extreme language, Mr. Speaker, because this is an extreme bill. It is time the farmers and producers of Canada knew what is going on.

Western ranchers came down here at one time and gave a beef supper for Senators and Members of Parliament. What did the head of the rancher's association say at that time? "We ask the government only one favour—keep your hands out of our business." That is what the rancher wants today. That is what the Ontario cattle producer wants. If there is to be a board to provide guidance in the marketing of these commodities, it should be a producers' board, elected by the producers, who should have the say.

● (8:40 p.m.)

When the Conservatives set up the Canadian Wheat Board it was a voluntary producer board. It now pays its members their salaries no matter whether they sell wheat or not, no matter whether they sell 100 million or 200 million bushels.

An hon. Member: What will be the salaries of members of this board?

[Mr. Woolliams.]

Mr. Woolliams: Someone wants to know what the salaries will be. I cannot quote figures, but I know the salaries are almost equal to those paid to cabinet members. When this act is proclaimed and the board controls marketing, Parliament will be bypassed, democracy emasculated, the producer emasculated and Parliament itself emasculated. That is what this bill will do.

Another question is, who will appoint the board? It will be the Governor in Council. We know how the government works. If they are to appoint 18 or 19 people to position, they will appoint one non-political person so that it does not look as if the appointments are political. The minister knows they will mostly be Liberal appointments and this government will act under the same kind of motivation as when the Prime Minister set up the board that deals with television. You will see the same kind of philosophy and intellectual motivation at work in the setting up of the board that will govern the hog producers.

An hon. Member: That is Canadian Socialism.

Mr. Woolliams: Someone calls that Canadian Socialism. Well, I believe a certain kind of Socialism at least would give the farmers a chance. Let us look at some of the other things that can be done under the act. The cabinet can enter into any agreement with any province or any importing nation without bringing the agreement before Parliament for approval. That means that this executive, this all-powerful cabinet which is not present tonight in the House can make any agreement it wishes with any nation. I hope the minister remembers the British wheat agreement, because that sold the farmers short and cost the western farmers a great deal of money. I have read one of his earlier speeches in which he said that it cost the western farmers \$600 million in one year. But at least that agreement came before Parliament. I have researched this matter in *Hansard*. But under this legislation the government will take no chances. It never misses a trick.

Mr. Gibson: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Woolliams: No, I will not. I wish that law student would be quiet and go to his library and do his own work. What I am saying is that this government, this executive, can now make any agreement it wishes without bringing the matter to Parliament and without giving Parliament a chance to suggest