

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

says that anybody who thinks he will get rich under this scheme has another think coming.

Mr. Korchinski: Anybody who has a small quota.

Mr. Olson: Seriously, Mr. Speaker, this legislation stipulates how agency members will be named. They can be elected or otherwise appointed. It also says that if producers wish to have a plan of supply management they themselves, through their elected or appointed representatives, will decide who gets quotas, will decide the maximums and the minimums of those quotas, and will also decide the rules for new entrants to the quota allocations. This is what the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) pointed out quite clearly. This is the way it operates. In fact, it is operated by the producers.

What is undeniable is the fact that this bill is going to give those producers of commodities who wish to take advantage of its provisions a new influence in the marketing of their products in the market place.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): And to hell with the consumer.

Mr. Olson: Hon. members opposite are opposed to farmers having a greater say in the marketing of their products. The farmers, across the country are beginning to realize that the kind of action that has been taken has denied them that right to manage their own affairs.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Peters: You did not even have producers on the board; the committee was responsible for that.

Mr. Horner: Now tell us about the plebiscite.

Mr. Olson: I do not want to excite the opposition by pointing out the very, very important and beneficial results that can come from this bill. Let no member in this House forget that we have reached the stage in public debate, not only in this House but all over the country and amongst the provincial governments, where all ten provincial governments agree that this is a good bill, that it is an essential bill and that it ought to have speedy passage.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Crowfoot is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Horner: The hon. minister, I am sure, would like to correct his last remark to the effect that all ten provinces agreed to this bill, that it is a good bill, and that all ten provincial governments of Canada want this bill. Mr. Speaker, they may want a version of it, an amended form of it, but they do not want this bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is a matter for debate, of course. The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Olson: It is a point for debate and, as usual, the hon. member for Crowfoot is wrong because the communiqué that was issued following the meeting of ministers

[Mr. Olson.]

referred to the speedy passage of the bill now before Parliament, and that is this bill.

Mr. Horner: Who issued the communiqué?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is your own communiqué.

Mr. Olson: Why don't you call Bill Stewart and ask him if he was there when it was put together? Why don't you ask the minister of agriculture of Alberta if he was there when it was put together? Because he was.

I wish hon. members would be quiet while I finish my speech, Mr. Speaker, as I think I only have three minutes left. It is an important day for the agricultural community in Canada, in my view, when we have all 11 governments and legislators—

Mr. Horner: It is a sin and it should hang heavy on your head.

Mr. Olson: —agree on a bill that will require delegation of authority from both levels of government if it is to operate to the benefit of all farmers in Canada.

Some of the problems that we have encountered over the past weeks and months with respect to getting to this stage will probably be looked back at in wonder from time to time. People will ask what all the fuss was about. I take the word of the hon. member for Crowfoot that the subamendment before us now will satisfy some producers, but I have to remind him that if he read some of the other sections of the bill he would find that the provisions of this particular amendment appear in one or two other places. The provisions were already there.

Mr. Horner: I should know; I put them there in committee.

Mr. Olson: All this, of course, will come home to the farmers and they will realize that this bill could have been passed a long, long time ago. The farmers who want it, who need it and can find some benefit from it will fully realize that the delay that has cost them some money—

Mr. Horner: It is your fault.

Mr. Olson: —could be laid at the doorstep of those people who are responsible—and they are all over on that side, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Richmond rising on a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

If the minister agrees, would you allow him to answer a question in order to enlighten me on a few words of the amendment?

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair would have to ask for the unanimous consent of the House. If there is such consent, if the minister wishes he could respond. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.