

marketing legislation if that bill contains obvious inadequacies? How can we cheer?

• (9:00 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: This may sound good to you, Mr. Speaker: I am coming to a close—

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Rose:—with reluctance, I might add. I have no difficulty in supporting the bill and I have no difficulty in opposing the amendment. I represent people who are largely poultry and egg producers who want the legislation and need it badly. I have received constant pressure from producers in my riding to get on and pass the bill so that somehow some order can come out of the chaos evident in the agricultural marketing situation.

Although B.C. producers had to accept the protection of import orders, they were not enamoured of them. Why should those in the chicken business be asked to pay the price of confederation by risking their operation and any future economic success in cutting the prices of the products they produce in the province, when British Columbia lawyers, doctors and teachers enjoy better provincial protection? It is because producers in my area envisage a lengthy debate on this bill that they have called for a separate bill dealing only with chickens and eggs. Such a bill would allow the government to do something in the period between now and the resumption of the session next fall.

Mr. McBride: Let's pass the bill.

Mr. Rose: A separate bill for chickens and eggs, in my opinion, would not be the best thing to do in the long run, but it certainly would be in the short run and I think most of my constituents would support the idea. I repeat, the bill has major imperfections but I do not think the three amendments we have before us tonight necessarily improve the bill. Confederation in this country is a costly thing. Most Canadians believe it is worth the price.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I do so to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the speeches made this evening with a good deal of interest. The last speaker, particularly, I thought in many ways showed a great deal of common sense. He put the policy of his party right on the line. They are for this bill even though they feel there may be some imperfections in it. I gather that the Cr ditistes are for the bill. The government party supports the bill. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let us call a spade a spade and let the people of Canada know who is against this bill. It is the official opposition, and nobody else.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Whicher: That is true, Mr. Speaker. If they are not against it, let them stand up and say so now. Let my Ontario colleagues representing farming constituencies stand up and say that they represent the farmers of Ontario and that they want to pass the bill.

Mr. McBride: They are not willing to do that.

Mr. Whicher: Let them have the courage to stand up and say that they will allow passage of Bill C-176. Let my Conservative friend from the great province of Quebec stand up and say that he will represent Quebec by supporting this bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, it has been said by some people to my left—

An hon. Member: You don't know what you are talking about.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McBride: Some hon. members are afraid of the truth.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, in my political life I have been insulted by experts. I do not regard these crows to my left as experts by any means. As my hon. friend who spoke a moment ago said, the amendments before the House, or motions that have been moved by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner and seconded by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh), really take the guts out of the whole bill because they would eliminate from the bill all animals, meats, eggs, poultry, wool, maple products, honey and other nutritional products.

These amendments mean that the mover and seconder of the motions are not just against certain sections of the bill; they are against Bill C-176 in total—and don't let anybody think otherwise in this House. Let me remind hon. members, as the hon. member who preceded me said, that the main agricultural organizations of Canada, including the National Farmers' Union and the Federation of Agriculture have been asking for national marketing legislation for many years. It has been said that this bill has imperfections. I hear my hon. friend muttering. I would like to hear what he has to say. He mutters but never speaks. I would be glad to hear him say what the imperfections are. At least this bill will give the agricultural industry of Canada an opportunity to have national marketing legislation covering it, legislation that has been backed by farm organizations in Canada for many years.

An hon. Member: I thought the hon. member supported free enterprise.

Mr. Whicher: My hon. friends say that the legislation is compulsory. My hon. friend for Swift Current-Maple Creek, whom I greatly admire, suggests that the cattle industry in the riding he so proudly represents will be done away with through passage of this bill and that