

Agricultural Stabilization Act

Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Member for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead referred to it, I can only underline that this Bill has been rushed through this Parliament. In fact, second reading of this Bill began on May 17. On that date, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Blais) introduced the Bill on behalf of his Minister. And when I refer to *Hansard* of that day, those who took part in that debate were members of the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party, but no other Tory Member from Quebec spoke.

An Hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Ouellet: The only one who spoke was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.

An Hon. Member: He could not figure out what he was reading!

Mr. Ouellet: The debate resumed a few days later on May 21, and then a rather remarkable thing happened, the only one to speak before the Bill obtained second reading was the Official Opposition critic on agriculture, and he was the only Liberal Member with a NDP Member to take part in the debate at that time.

An Hon. Member: It was fortunate that he was there.

Mr. Ouellet: The Minister did not speak on the 17 nor on the 21.

An Hon. Member: He was ashamed until then!

Mr. Ouellet: The Bill came back yesterday with amendments for our consideration and which . . . I still have—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): About a minute.

Mr. Ouellet: A minute, thank you. The Bill came back yesterday and once again, unfortunately, only our NDP colleague took the floor, along with a good number of Liberal Members and the Minister still remained silent. Does he really want to have that Bill passed? One wonders. I think, Mr. Speaker, and I am coming to an end, that this Bill has not been fully looked into in this House. I think that there is too much opposition as well in the Maritimes. Yesterday, my colleague from Prince Edward Island mentioned a telegram he had received from the Minister of Agriculture of that Province objecting to the Bill. We know that dozens and dozens of farmers' organizations object to the Bill and that other provincial Ministers of Agriculture also object to it. I wonder why the Minister is bent on having that legislation passed in a hurry before the summer recess, a legislation which does not meet the legitimate aspirations of Canadian farmers. The Liberal Party will surely fight to the end against that Bill and we will surely vote against it, because it is prejudicial, not only

in the short term but also in the long term, to Canadian farmers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions, comments or debate? The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

[English]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this very important agricultural debate. I note a certain sadness on the face of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise). It is no doubt caused by the assault which was perpetrated on the farmers earlier by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) when he imposed a one cent a litre tax on gasoline. I know that the Minister of Agriculture, like myself, is very worried about the effect that will have on the agricultural industry in Canada. I do not blame him for being disappointed. Members representing agricultural constituencies are also disappointed with a Government which gives so many breaks to the rich and so little to the poor and the farming communities of Canada.

A few days ago I made a few remarks in the House concerning Bill C-25, and for the benefit of Members who were not present on that day I would like to repeat those remarks.

An Hon. Member: I missed something.

Mr. Boudria: The Hon. Member opposite said that he missed something, so I will repeat it for his benefit. I know that the Member opposite is on the Standing Committee on Agriculture and is very interested in the well-being of farmers across Canada.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House the minutes of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Number 39 of June 18, 1985. The Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) asked the Minister a very important question in committee. He was talking about agricultural stabilization and, in particular, pork. He asked what effect this Bill would have, in the event it was passed, in establishing stabilization in the pork industry. Much of the debate over the last few days in this House has surrounded the whole area of the pork industry because we know the terrible condition of that industry. I outlined to the committee and to this House the fact that this industry has been diminishing in numbers and amount of production every year for the last five years in the constituency I represent. I know the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), who is listening very attentively, will be interested in hearing this, as he usually is. I would just like to quote something the Minister of Agriculture said. He said the following in Committee:

● (1930)

If I were presented with that decision today, and recognizing the extent of the percentage and the impact and the importance of the size of the hog industry to one or two or three provinces, I can assure you, given the conditions today, that I would not be recommending that we go forward with a hog plan.