

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Motion (Mr. Barnett) negatived.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill S-5, to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MARKETING COUNCIL AND AGENCIES

The House resumed from Thursday, May 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. Olson that Bill C-197, to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Horner (p.6719).

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Question.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, during consideration of Bill C-197, an act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, many thoughtful and concerned speeches have been made by members of the opposition. In fact, had he been listening, enough arguments have been advanced, enough concern has been expressed about the effect the bill would have on agriculture in general and on individual farmers in particular to persuade the minister that he has

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).]

brought forward one of the most undemocratic pieces of legislation ever to be presented to this Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): In all the time I have spent in Parliament, I have never seen legislation proposed that would give the government such complete control over the lives and destinies of such a large section of the population as this will wield over the agricultural segment of this nation. Totalitarian in concept, it will destroy private enterprise in one of the most democratic-minded areas of our society, the farming communities. I know that this has been said before, but I make no apology for repeating it because it needs to be said over and over again until the minister either comes to his senses or the government is made to realize that our farmers will have no part of any legislation that places the yoke of an all-powerful government bureaucracy on their necks.

The minister, in his statement to the joint convention of the Farmers Union of Alberta and the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, on March 24, 1970, stated:

National marketing agencies will not be set until it is demonstrated that there is a wide producer consensus on the needs for them. It will not be the role of government alone to actively work for and organize that consensus. It will require the assistance of the producers themselves, through their organizations, such as this one.

What I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, is where in this bill is there any indication that this is going to happen? The minister not only misled the farmers but he also misled the House when in his speech introducing Bill C-197 he said, as reported at page 5871 of *Hansard*:

Many farm organizations in Canada have waited a long time for this kind of legislation.

This is not in accordance with the facts. In briefs and at the Canadian Agriculture Congress, farm organizations have been asking—

Mr. Gibson: Withdraw "misleading".

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Withdraw "misleading"? When I think of a stronger word, I will use it. Farm organizations have been asking for national marketing legislation of a kind which would establish agencies jointly initiated and administered by government and farmers. This bill develops a structure which is exclusively governmental and that policy was not given the support of either the government's task force or farm groups at the