

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I was coming to it when I was interrupted a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, when the members opposite say that the Creditiste members in committee and elsewhere were favorable to the government's dairy policy, with all due respect I must say that they deliberately mislead the House. We were opposed to that policy to such an extent that we were not afraid to attend the farmers' demonstration in Sherbrooke, where no federal Liberal member was present, not even the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Côté), and this because they had cold feet.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Again, that is hardly a question of privilege. If we are going to get into this sort of argument, it seems to me that the Chair has only one course to take and that is to insist that hon. members stick strictly to the motion before the House. I have been exercising a certain amount of leniency in allowing the hon. member for Portneuf to go slightly beyond a strict interpretation of the motion, but if as a result of that leniency we are going to get into this sort of argument I shall have to apply the rules of relevancy more strictly than I have hitherto. I suggest we allow the hon. member for Portneuf to conclude his remarks, and if other hon. members want to contribute to the debate they are free to do so.

[Translation]

**Mr. Godin:** Mr. Speaker, I agree with you. There was perhaps no question of privilege. However, that has allowed me to throw some light on something that was becoming obscure.

This has happened before. The notorious report was adopted on division. One day, the meeting was held in camera. So one cannot say just about anything on the matter, since the meeting was held behind closed doors. Nothing is known about it.

• (9:20 p.m.)

If the hon. member for Richelieu meets a farmer who explains his dissatisfaction to him, the hon. member says piously: Think of the circumstances, you do not understand what is going on in Canada. The whole province fails to understand the problem. Right now, he is the only one who understands anything, Mr. Speaker. I regret that he is the only one at the present time to advise the

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*  
government in matters pertaining to the dairy policy when we know that this question has always more or less concerned him.

**An hon. Member:** That is right.

**Mr. Godin:** We recall that in 1968 there were quite similar problems. In fact, the then Parliamentary Secretary said that there was a very simple reason for it: all the difficulties were the result of a minority administration. Therefore, a majority government had to be elected.

With its majority what is the government waiting for to prove itself? Up to now attempts have been made to keep the farmer informed through speeches. He has been begged to keep on working his farm and today we realize that if he ever was the king of the land he has not been for a very long time. The Canadian farmer was king but that time is past because the policy of the government aims only at taking hold of all that the others own.

**Mr. Rondeau:** This is socialism!

**Mr. Godin:** From the economic point of view, the farmer is in a clearly inferior position to that of other workers. He is very poor compared to other professionals. In order to obtain a better yield, he had to improve his production and cattle breeding methods. To produce more rapidly, he mechanized his equipment. To meet the demand for quality products, he bought modern machinery at a cost of thousands of dollars.

In spite of his efforts, he cannot become prosperous because he is caught between his cost price and the price he has to accept for his products. The price of food is not settled automatically. One must recognize that he is in a very sorry plight indeed because his products are perishable. It is not a question of holding up deliveries, specially milk deliveries. It is also impossible to stock it. Therefore, the producer takes what is given to him, and that has been going on for a number of years.

Although this government has a clear majority, agriculture is always squeezed in between supply and demand and is always at the mercy of various government agencies. Since he had to be satisfied for too long with a low income, he has to go to the Farm Loan Board for financing. Then, he is told that first of all he has to increase his production, after which he will get a loan. The farmer, therefore, goes and buys his neighbour's land, raises more cattle, increases his stock, and then he is subjected to a penalty because he