

The Carter report which contained valid and more justifiable proposals has completely been ignored with regard to taxation, and thus the deficit for the past 11 years reached \$4.485 billion. The net debt was close to \$17 billion on March 31, 1970 and \$18 billion the following year, for a gross debt of almost \$43 billion. Therefore, the debt increased by \$1 billion last year.

Mr. Speaker, the total debt of Canada amounts to \$43 billion and it bears interests. It cost us more than \$2 billion in 1970-71, that is \$6 million a day; the bonds—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Order. It being six o'clock, it is my duty to interrupt this debate pursuant to the order made on Wednesday, June 16, 1971. I therefore leave the Chair until eight o'clock tonight. The House will then consider another government business.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

[English]

It may be my last sitting at this session. On a warm and sunny day, as we look ahead to the end of our sittings I am reminded of these lines:

The sun moves always west,
The road one treads to labour,
Will lead one home to rest,
And that will be the best.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In view of Your Honour's announcement that we will turn to another order at eight o'clock, I wonder if someone on the government side will tell us what it will be.

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to indicate to hon. members that at eight o'clock we are proceeding with Bill C-176. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) and the minister in charge of the Wheat Board will be here to carry that legislation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Why?

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MARKETING COUNCIL AND AGENCIES

The House resumed, from Wednesday, April 28, consideration of Bill C-176 to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, and motions Nos. 1, 5 and 22 (Mr. Horner).

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have been considering this amendment for some time as well as the other amendments. I first rose to speak on the farm products marketing bill in April, 1970. Back in

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

those days it was known as Bill C-197. The agricultural producers of Canada especially those who through provincial legislation had developed orderly marketing programs, were delighted that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) was fulfilling his promise to introduce legislation which would enable them to establish national marketing agencies.

Although the concept was not new, a bill to adequately serve the many commodity segments of the agricultural industry is not easy to draft. Nevertheless, the Minister of Agriculture at the very outset stated in the House of Commons that he was prepared to accept amendments after consultation with producer groups and the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

In view of an urgency resulting from serious overproduction in some areas of Canada, the bill was presented for first and second reading so that it could go to committee where producers, representatives of agribusiness and other interested groups could participate in contributing to the examination of the bill and propose amendments acceptable to producers from all regions of Canada. However, the official opposition prevented the bill from getting to committee between March and July of 1970.

An hon. Member: I do.

Mr. Pringle: They were intent on talking the bill out every time it appeared on the order paper. The farmers were standing by, ready to appear before the committee. I do not doubt the sincerity of the hon. members to my left.

Am hon. Member: I do.

Mr. Pringle: They were misinformed, ill-advised and absolutely ignorant of marketing plans and programs. Nevertheless, they insisted they were much better informed than the farmers. On May 19, 1970, as reported on page 7,100 of *Hansard*, I practically got down on my knees and pleaded with members of the opposition to let the bill go to the Standing Committee on Agriculture. But they continued their filibuster until the final day of the session last year, and Bill C-197 was laid to rest.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Your Honour, I rise on a point of order. I believe it would be proper for me to do so now rather than after two or three people have strayed, as it seems to me the hon. member is now doing. Are we not at the report stage, and is it not required at the report stage to speak to the amendments which are before the House?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle) is not only not speaking to the amendment but he is not talking about the bill before us. He is talking about a bill which was considered during a previous session. If he wishes to continue to do so, and is ruled in order, the House can take the consequences.