

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

doing it because small farmers will be guaranteed security.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this will encourage farmers' children to remain in agriculture, thus ensuring them of some stability and security.

I think the objective of Bill C-176 is to give farmers the security workers enjoy today as a result of improved programs. Farmers are also in need of a better farm policy, and I am convinced that Bill C-176 will achieve this goal.

In any case, if we really want to serve the farming community, I believe it is time we stop moving all these amendments.

This bill has been under consideration for months. Our farmers are particularly anxious to see this piece of legislation enacted. We could, in a very short time, solve some of the problems that may arise among farmers who want to live in agreement with all provinces in this country. I believe this bill will bring about what has never been done before, namely to bring to the same table representatives from all provinces, in order to discuss together the problems that affect the whole nation.

It is unthinkable to continue to pass measures at the provincial level, because we all know that compensation will come sooner or later. I believe that the Minister of Agriculture has met on several occasions with provincial ministers of agriculture and that it is no exaggeration to say that most of them agreed that the bill should be introduced with amendments. From the start, it has been changed and reviewed and today there still seems to be opposition to this instrument indispensable to farmers who need stability and security.

I believe that all the objectives which our farmers have at heart will be achieved through Bill C-176. There can be debate and even petty politics about the bill, but I do not feel it is right to delay its passage any further, knowing full well that it is our farmers who will be footing the bill.

Perhaps a more efficient measure could have been imagined, but in the House nobody has proposed such a measure yet. Therefore it seems to me that we should act quickly and at the same time let hon. members express their views. I congratulate all those who take part in this important debate, but I believe that we should also be honest with the farmers. I think we must also be practical and give the agricultural community an instrument that we have not tried yet. We passed a great deal of measures concerning agriculture, but we know the results today. The problems have not disappeared and the causes for concern remain.

I think that Bill C-176 will eliminate a number of these problems and part of this concern. If the government legislates seriously and honestly to improve the condition of the agricultural community, this community will live better and enjoy an income comparable to that of unionized workers.

Mr. Speaker, I close my remarks by calling on hon. members to give serious thought to this bill which will not divide the country but unite Canadian farmers for the benefit of the provinces and for the benefit of all Canadians.

[Mr. La Salle.]

• (9:10 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to take part in this debate and express my support for the very worth-while amendments that we are discussing. If hon. members pass these amendments I believe we will get somewhere. They are important to all the people who are concerned with this bill. In this context I refer to many people who strongly favour marketing bills. In this particular instance I refer to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, who have stated:

Be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool press for producer representation on the marketing council, and majority producer representation on the marketing agencies.

These are some of the things they believe in and that we are seeking. We have a perfect right to do so because these are sound, logical amendments. I recall when Saskatchewan held a plebiscite not many years ago with respect to a marketing bill applicable to livestock. Today I tried to get the exact figures that were recorded in that plebiscite, but failed. I do know that the livestock producers voted overwhelmingly against that bill. I believe they should have that right again and should not be forced by this bill. I would also like to mention the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. This is a sound organization, but its members also feel that the producers of individual commodities should have the right to determine, by way of plebiscite, whether they want an agency to handle the marketing of their produce.

I take strong exception to the speech delivered this afternoon by the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. McBride). He said that my colleague, the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), was speaking only for big interests and ranchers. I want to tell him that the hon. member for Crowfoot speaks for all his constituents. I shall refer to some statistics for the benefit of the hon. member, statistics which he can pass on to his constituents. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, in a release dated December 22, 1971, stated:

Average net income of Saskatchewan farmers has dropped to \$2,650 from \$5,640 between 1969 and 1970, according to the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

Possibly the hon. member would go back and tell that to his constituents. Perhaps he would like to go back and tell his constituents more of the truth and let them know some of the things that are taking place. Possibly he would tell them that this country, with its so-called just society, which has experienced an increase in population of less than one million since 1965, today costs twice as much to administer as it did in 1965. Perhaps he would like to tell his constituents some of the truth with respect to what is happening in this just society, instead of criticizing members of the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I apologize to the hon. member for interrupting. I appreciate that his remarks to this point are introductory in nature and that he will be coming to the substance of his speech and turning to the motions which are before us. However, it seems to me that his last remarks were outside the terms of the motions now before the House.

Mr. Cadieu: Mr. Speaker, all of the hon. member's remarks were allowed to go on the record this afternoon