

*Government Orders*

study them to make sure that all producers in Canada are used on an equitable basis.

We have to be very careful when entering into long-term agreements and, if at all possible, try to have the agreements for wheat apply to all prairie provinces or, for corn, applied equally to Ontario and Quebec.

The whole concept of a safety net would be more acceptable to the farmers in Canada if, in fact, we had the regular ups and downs and regular cycles in the marketplace.

As I indicated earlier, these marketplace fluctuations appear to be influenced by outside factors other than those of supply and demand. I have to wonder just what consideration was given to these fluctuations, the fact that the marketplace is not being allowed to respond because of outside influences. I have to wonder what the government is doing to put us back on a level playing field.

Looking at the southern United States where they can grow two or three crops a year, we are dreaming in Technicolor if we think that we can compete—with a bill such as we have here today—with two crops a year that have their targeted prices and deficiency payments.

The livestock industry in the United States is moving south, particularly the dairy industry which is moving south into Florida and into Texas. With up to 7,000 animals per herd, I have to wonder what lies ahead for us here in Canada.

It is time this government examined how to compete in such situations like that. How do we compete, for example, when 50 per cent of the United States' agriculture efficiency is cheap labour, most of it in the southern states where Mexican labour is available for \$1 an hour with no benefits. In fact, 3,000 hours of labour per worker per year is considered to be labour not fully utilized in that part of this North American continent. Most of these people work 9.6 hours per day, six days a week. On an average Michigan dairy farm the workers work 2,700 hours per year versus 2,000 hours per year in industry.

There are a lot of things involved with this bill, a lot of things to consider. Are we simply pouring money into a program like this trying to follow a supposedly free world market that is so heavily subsidized by other countries?

Are we simply pouring money into a bill that is going to be detrimental not only to our country, but will instil a sense of false hope among our farmers that they will be able to pay off their mortgages and have a living commensurate with that of the rest of society?

I hope the government reconsiders some of these issues I have raised when it goes into committee. While I support the bill in principle, there are a lot of loopholes and a lot that has to be examined in detail. I trust the government will be responsive to our concerns.

**Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan):** Mr. Speaker, of the members who have spoken on this so far, the hon. member for Mackenzie said: "It is difficult to criticize the details of legislation when the details really are not in it", and it would be equally difficult to praise it, I would think.

The hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James said it would be easy to be cynical about the timing of the payments coming as they do when one might expect a federal election and, I suppose, it is easy. I do not intend to dwell on that.

The hon. member for Lambton—Middlesex said that it is difficult to talk about agreements when none of the agreements have been seen. I suppose if I were entering into such an agreement with the federal government, on behalf of a provincial government or even on behalf of an individual, I would think carefully about what the federal government has done with respect to agreements for cost sharing between the province and the federal government and the changes that have been made in those.

• (1630)

I am sure all that will be covered. As the hon. member for Mackenzie and others have said, when we get into committee we can deal with the details and hope to improve the legislation and make something more of it.

I intend to talk about my own experience in the few minutes that I have. I can recall when I first stood in the legislature in the province of British Columbia. I am going to digress for a moment, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the presence in the House of the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I know in the jobs he has, there are many things he could be doing other than sitting here listening to this debate. But I am aware also that he has been here