

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

will almost immediately avail themselves of the benefits of the legislation.

As far as other products are concerned, the legislation will be available to producers who want to resort to it, since it will be included in our statutes as of tomorrow.

The legislation has been described as "permissive" and it will be up to producers, and to them only, to determine whether or not they want to avail themselves of it. The decision will be that of a majority of producers, as is specified in several places in the bill and again today in an amendment to clause 2, which eliminates the designation of products while effectively excluding no products. Products will come under the bill as and when required by the producers. The bill is at their disposal and I am convinced that it is good. Of course it will not solve all problems. Nobody thinks that. It is a tool to solve our problems.

The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) mentioned earlier the representation made by the farmers last week in Ottawa and the fact that, as parliamentary secretary to the minister, I have stated that these pressure groups could not intimidate us. Such groups do not intimidate us. When groups come to make objective representations and express themselves respectfully, there is no problem and they are welcome. But when individuals, members of a group, use language which I do not tolerate and do not use, I have a right to object to their using such language, and that is what I said to one or two individuals in that group. And I am not afraid to take such a stand.

I do not know whether the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) was speaking yesterday on behalf of his party—I presume that such was the case—when he stated as recorded on page 10833 of *Hansard* and I quote:

—And a great number of those remaining will go the same way with the coming into force of Bill C-176—the most infamous bill ever proposed to a nation. We are dragging farmers out by the neck. Whether they like it or not, they will have to follow, (it is dictatorship.

I completely disagree with this statement of the member for Compton. There is absolutely no dictatorship but true democracy, since they will decide themselves, through a democratic vote, whether to use this legislation. It is not an infamous legislation, but one that was requested by the farming associations over the last 30 years, and unanimously by the people of the Quebec C.F.U.

If they claim to represent the farming people, the Social Crediters were entirely mistaken in taking their present position with regard to Bill C-176. I think the farmers will know who are their true friends in Ottawa. They are not necessarily those who are barking, as the hon. member for Bellechasse said earlier. It is not by barking that results are achieved, but through sustained work done here by scores of hon. members in committee and in the cabinet, in co-operation with the ministers. Those are the ones who do the work in the background, not some brilliant demagogic work intended to make the head-lines, but some constantly constructive work. That is what we are trying to do and what we will continue to do, whatever may say those who are trying to degrade us here in this House.

Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to see the end of this long debate tonight and in concluding my remarks, I should like to thank sincerely all the members who have helped us in every way, especially those from the government

[Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean).]

party who supported us during the numerous committee sittings. I want to thank them because it was not easy and I know it. I want to thank, for their presence, the 115 government members who were here tonight.

When they hear that the leaders of the opposition parties would not even come here tonight to take part in this debate and vote on this bill, the farmers will know which members are really concerned about the agricultural community.

In concluding, I wish 1972 will be a year of prosperity for the farmers and for the Canadian people generally.

[English]

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing the culmination of a debate which has lasted for years. It was a disappointment to us to find that after Bill C-197 in its original form had died on the order paper following major criticisms by producers across the country, instead of remodelling the measure on the lines requested by the producers, the minister saw fit to bring it back in substantially the same form. This led to the controversy which has taken place and to the changes for which we have fought so hard and so wearily in the months since Bill C-176 was brought down.

I do not think anybody in the country is against marketing boards as such. My concept, and I think the concept held by most producers, is that of producers banded together to negotiate on the best possible basis, to research the world to find markets for their products and bargain on the most advantageous terms. This is my concept, and I think the concept of the majority of those in this House as well as all the producers of the country, with regard to marketing boards. The hang-up comes from the supply management aspect. Supply management cannot help but be inward looking. It is a withdrawal from the markets of the world.

• (1:00 a.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Downey: It has to be inward looking. Supply management in any country, Canada in particular, cannot work without import controls. We all know that to the degree we depend on export we cannot have import control because we will ruin our total export base. This is the bind we are in.

Supply management becomes impractical when you look at it in terms of designated quotas and this type of thing. This is where we run into trouble. Maybe we should look at the motives of those that seek supply management.

In response to the remarks made by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle) said this afternoon: "You do not know anything about marketing boards. You do not know a member of one of those boards. You do not know what they are like at all."

I want to read a profile of an individual who is pushing quotas and supply management in this province and a profile of an individual who presented evidence at the egg inquiry in Ontario. I will not name the gentleman. He has been chairman of the egg board. He is or has been a director of many of the poultry organizations in the country. This is the way his record reads. He is the biggest