

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

Mr. Baldwin: This government is expert at dragooning. It does it all the time, and attempts to do it to the opposition. No measure is more calculated to indicate the attitude of the government than Bill C-197. Its provisions constitute a giant step forward in the plot of these arrogant, pseudo-intellectuals to apply a sort of limited economic genocide to the farming community or, to put it another way, to practise an occupational gerrymander against the agricultural constituency of Canada.

This has been the obvious design of the Liberal Party for more than a decade. There has been a deliberate series of actions by Liberal governments to root out the fine quality of independence of rural people and bundle them into the larger centres where they can be made much more tractable and more readily manipulated by the media, both press and electronic, which fit into the slick and slippery machine put together so smoothly by the present Liberal leadership. In a related sense, it is also a continuation of the defeatist attitude Liberal governments have taken toward any attempt to promote a viable agricultural industry in Canada.

Reading the lines of this bill, and reading between the lines, it is quite obvious to note the contemptuous indifference of the Prime Minister and his associates to any really serious and intensive effort to promote new markets for present and potential agricultural production. Who was the distinguished, right hon. gentleman, who said in Winnipeg, "I don't have to sell your wheat. Why should I sell your wheat for you?"

We import hundreds of millions of agricultural products—fruit, meat, grain, oilseeds, vegetables, dairy products, and so on. We have not made any honest and determined effort to relate our production to markets which we have at home or which we could seek out and find in other parts of the world but which we do not bother about. This bill is an obvious measure to limit our production, to limit our exports, to limit those who will be producers and to change the character of those who will be engaged in agricultural production. This bill is the death-knell of the individual farmer. He is to be succeeded by the type of soulless, corporate entity which makes such an appeal to this Liberal government. He is to be succeeded by the Canadian version of the Russian collective farming system.

An hon. Member: Holy smoke!

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Mr. Baldwin: The more I watch this government, the more I think of the phrase "the man on horseback"—a phrase used on several occasions during the last century to denote those people who were bent on securing unchallengeable authority to rule the affairs of their country. The Prime Minister and his small, elite group both in and out of the cabinet reaching out greedily for ever more authority to exercise over the people of their country constitute in Canada "the man on horseback" seeking unbridled and unlimited rights in this land. Power, sock it to them! Arrogant contemptuousness of Parliament and the people they misrule—that is the name of the game they play; and quite obviously that is what they want to make a permanent rule in the game of politics.

Over and over again I have pointed to clauses in various bills which have been introduced by the government. In those clauses and bills the government has sought, and the House and Parliament has given to it, the right to rule by Order in Council, by decree and by regulation without there being the necessity of the government ever having to come back to Parliament. There have been many examples, the LIFT program being one. There have been other agricultural bills in the last two sessions in which the government has been given the right to set interest rates by Order in Council. There is the Corporations Act, the Investment Companies Act, the Regional expansion and incentives programs, and now there is the new water bill.

Another example is the way in which the government has been dealing with the Indian people of this country, despite its promise to consult with them. We had the transportation bill and the broadcasting bill, and now we find the government moving into the media, through Information Canada, through the means of the Davey committee in the other place and through the uncontrolled right of the CRTC to set regulations. We find the government, either directly or indirectly through its appointed tribunals, saying to the media, "Co-operate or else."

Finally, there has been—as is demonstrated by this bill and other measures—the deliberate downgrading of parliamentary institutions. This is made evident through the changes in the rules, by the neglect to provide full and adequate answers to questions, both oral and written, by the government's deliberately taking the action out of the House of Commons and placing it in so many committees that they cannot be manned by the oppo-