

point of order. I appreciate the point raised by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), and both hon. members have indicated some concern. Frankly, the Chair was not very concerned about the remarks of the hon. member for Crowfoot because I do not think that in them there was a reflection on decisions made by hon. members in committee or a reflection on the motives of hon. members. If such had been the case, I think the hon. member for Crowfoot would have been out of order. My impression was that he made some comments on the evidence given to the committee and I think he was generally in order. I thank the minister for raising this point and I know hon. members will wish to keep it very much in mind.

Mr. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill has received very extensive consideration in the agricultural committee. You will recall that there was some consideration of essentially the same bill in the last session of Parliament. Something like 37 agencies appeared before the committee to give their views, and then of course there were meetings across the country. The evidence taken and the record of the committee proceedings runs to almost 3,000 pages. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that 36 amendments were accepted by the committee since Bill C-176 was referred to it by the House.

Now I wish to make one or two general comments. In so far as the need for the provisions of Bill C-176 is concerned, the argument has been made in this House and in many other places across the country that the bill will contribute to the balkanization of the country and, indeed, to setting up trade barriers between provinces. I say, with great respect and deference to those who make that assertion, that the whole purpose of Bill C-176, the desired end result and the objective are exactly the opposite of that suggestion. The purpose of the bill is to provide a means whereby the provinces can in fact get together and work out a plan that is acceptable to all the provinces, bearing in mind that all the provinces have legislation on their books dealing with the orderly marketing of farm products, and to make it possible for the federal government to delegate some of the authority it has with respect to the interprovincial movement of agricultural products so that marketing orders, wherever they may be made, will be applied uniformly on all sides of provincial borders.

This argument ignores one very essential point, and that is that all the provinces now have this legislation on their books. And indeed we cannot ignore what has happened in the past few months, the application of such legislation on the books not only by Ontario and Quebec but by many other provinces respecting the two commodities with which there is presently the greatest difficulty, eggs and broiler chickens. This has now happened and we cannot ignore what has happened and what is likely to happen.

Indeed, Ministers of Agriculture meeting more than two years ago indicated they were afraid that unless concerted action was taken across the country under the aegis of federal legislation, the situation in which we find ourselves today respecting some agricultural products would arise. What is more, Mr. Speaker, within the last

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few days we find further indications of an escalation of this situation by the passing of more severe marketing orders respecting these two products, as well as an indication by some provincial officials that the situation will probably escalate to other products and will not necessarily be confined to agricultural products.

That is the problem with which we are faced, and for hon. members or members of the public generally to suggest that Bill C-176 is going to balkanize the country, when that is exactly what is going on now in the absence of a national marketing act that will provide the legal basis upon which a co-operative framework can be laid, is a contradictory argument. Without saying anything more about that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend a few minutes discussing some advertising that has been taking place.

The hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) referred to some advertising. I note that he has also been responsible for getting some advertising into a number of papers across the country. One of the ads—this is the one which appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* on April 22—carried the same format as a number of others that have appeared in other papers. The advertisement states—

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the minister but I am informed that he said I was responsible for some ads being placed in papers, particularly in the *Ottawa Citizen*. I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not in any way responsible. I consulted no papers. I know of the ads he speaks of because my office is being bombarded with coupons, and I am glad to serve the farmers in any way I can. I am not responsible for the ads at all. I am not financing them, nor am I in any way responsible for their wording or their being placed in the papers. I want to make that abundantly clear.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the ad I hold in my hand is dated April 22, the *Ottawa Citizen*. After many other things appear the words: "Mail to Jack Horner, MP, Ottawa".

Mr. Horner: On this point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Crowfoot has indicated to the minister and hon. members of the House, if I can paraphrase him, that he was not responsible for the ad. The Chair does not assess the significance of it, but I think hon. members will accept the word of the hon. member for Crowfoot.

Mr. Horner: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker, I know from my experience in campaigning that when an ad is placed in a newspaper it has to be stated somewhere in it who is responsible for it. The minister has the ad before him. In order to clear my name—I find my name in the newspapers a lot these days; sometimes I wish it were not, but in this case I am glad it is there because I am prepared to serve the farmers in any way I can—I wonder if the minister would read who is responsible for the ad.

Mr. Olson: I am prepared to table the ad, Mr. Speaker. It does not say anywhere who is responsible for it. The