

cil? The cabinet. The cabinet will appoint Grits. Then the bill says:

If a member of the council, other than the chairman, is absent or unable to act, the Governor in Council may appoint a temporary substitute member.

Then the bill talks about hearings. The only hearings the farmers will get will be if the minister in his graciousness permits them to have a hearing.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Woolliams:** That is exactly what will happen. This board will advise the minister, or the minister will advise the board. If the minister decides tomorrow morning to take over the cattle industry of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which I call a multi-million dollar industry—it is worth at least \$600 million in Alberta alone—and the marketing of cattle or any other commodity that is known as farm produce, he will be able to do it without a plebiscite from the people and without the consent of the producers.

Then the bill says that the board may consult with the producers. Isn't that very gracious of the government? Members of the government say, "We will consult if we feel like it." We know the kind of government we are getting now. They do not consult with the people. This measure will be rammed through the House, rammed through a sham committee and passed, and then the minister and the Minister without Portfolio who is looking after the grain trade will be able to take over the marketing of cattle. That is the only farm life left in the economics of western Canada, otherwise it will become a dust bowl created by the LIFT program when the winds blow in May and June.

Of course, the minister says that all this is not compulsory. He shakes his head. I have read this bill and I am glad to see he is starting to read it now, because he is getting some bad advice. In connection with public hearings the bill says:

A public hearing shall be held by the council  
(a) in connection with an inquiry into the merits of establishing an agency or of broadening the authority of an existing agency to cover an additional farm product or farm products;

(b) where the council has under review a proposed marketing plan; and

(c) in connection with any other matter relating to its objects if the Governor in Council or the minister directs the council to hold a public hearing in connection with such matter.

That is what it really means. You know, they are so gracious to the producer. They say, "We are not going to be that autocratic.

### *Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

We don't want to be that dictatorial. If we sit down in the cabinet chamber we might call the producers together." I know a lot of boards. I have appeared before many boards and I know many have made their decisions before a lot of the evidence hits the council table. Some of the royal commission inquiries operate like that. The report of the Le Dain Commission is not before the public right now because certain cabinet ministers know they are playing with political dynamite.

The same kind of hearing will be given the agricultural producers. In fact, the Minister of Agriculture might even hold a few sham hearings out in Medicine Hat, but after listening to the farmers he will come back here and do what he wants anyway. If this is not dictatorship, taking over the markets of western Canada, I do not know what is. This is a fight to the finish so far as western Canada is concerned. If the Minister of Agriculture does not resign when he hits the cabinet with this bill without it being amended, I will be surprised because at one time he was one of the best orators, one of the best thinkers, one of the best fighters for western Canada. Where has his soul gone now? He must be thinking of that poem "Just for a pot of gold."

Let us see what else they have the power to do. Not only do they set up a compulsory board under this legislation but they appoint all the people to that board, and they will be Liberals. They say the farmers will be heard, but they will have power as to whether evidence will be admissible or not. Then they can make Orders in Council as to rules and regulations. This bill is like the BNA Act or the constitution of any country giving more power to a cabinet that loves power. They say they are pragmatists. That is one thing the Prime Minister said. He said, "I am a pragmatist. I promised nothing." He delivered nothing, Mr. Speaker. The bill also provides for the making of Orders in Council. Where are Orders in Council passed? In the secret chambers of cabinet where privy councillors are sworn not to tell what goes on behind closed doors.

**Mr. Bell:** Except Judy LaMarsh.

**Mr. Woolliams:** You are absolutely right; Judy made her confession. That is the kind of deal the producer is getting in this bill. Having read the bill, I could not sit in my place any longer without opening up and letting the public know. I hope the newspapers and Information Canada will tell what is going on here.