

becoming more apparent every day, to set up the kind of structure that is envisaged under Bill C-176 in order to resolve some of the very severe marketing problems in relation to agricultural products in the country.

A great deal of evidence was given by witnesses who were called by or volunteered to appear before the Standing Committee on Agriculture during the past session. While the committee during that period did not reach the clause-by-clause study of the bill, I believe the time spent, even while the House was not sitting, was very useful. I again wish to express my appreciation to the House Leaders and to the agricultural spokesmen of all parties for the kind of attitude they have shown me in respect of getting on with the passage of this bill.

During the discussions which have taken place on this subject I have been asked how some of the marketing plans that would be set up may or, indeed, could operate. Mr. Speaker, I have had prepared in some detail the principles that would be involved in the marketing plans that would be proposed, not only for the members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture but also for the provincial governments which also have a great deal of interest in this bill, because it is designed in such a way that the marketing agencies that would be established under its authority could also receive similar, delegating legislation from provincial jurisdictions.

I wish to advise hon. members that when Bill C-176 reaches the committee I will be prepared to give a detailed outline of how we anticipate some of these marketing plans could operate. In addition to that, I would advise that I have agreed to some suggestions that have been made by some of the farm organizations across the country, as well as to some of the suggestions made by members of the opposition. First, I am prepared to accept amendments to this bill respecting the provisions in the clause which deals with the definition of agricultural products to the extent that cattle and calves would be excluded from the provisions of the bill.

I am also prepared to consider and, indeed, accept amendments to certain other clauses to make much more explicit the appeal procedure that producers would have in the event they felt aggrieved or wished to complain about marketing orders made by the marketing boards that would be set up under the legislation. I am also prepared to consider favourably amendments to other parts of this bill that would provide statutory provision for membership and the relationship of that membership to certain interested groups, particularly the producers, on marketing boards, commissions or whatever other structure is set up under this bill in the clause that deals with membership of these boards.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, there is a great deal of direct interest by the provincial governments in this bill. It may be useful for the committee to consider some method by which various types of provisions are provided in the legislation relating to specific commodity marketing boards. I say that because I do not believe the marketing boards and, indeed, the regulations would be identical for all commodities. I realize that it may be necessary to have different kind of structure and perhaps

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

different types of rules contained in the regulations with respect to marketing agencies that are dealing, for example, with potatoes, honey, maple syrup, tobacco or any other agricultural product that may be involved.

● (9:20 p.m.)

It seems to me that we should have enough latitude in drawing up those regulations, which will really be the by-laws of any particular marketing agency, so that there can be an input by the provincial governments, which have an important role to play in this marketing legislation, as well as by producer groups that are particularly interested in a specific commodity. I think that is necessary because in practice until this year, 1970, many types of marketing structures have been set up for various commodities. In my view, they should at least be respected as we move forward in trying to co-ordinate the provincial legislation so that it is applied reasonably and uniformly across the country for a specific commodity.

I want to suggest, also, that we reinstate the evidence respecting marketing legislation that the committee heard in the last session. This evidence was heard from the witnesses only about four or five weeks ago, and in my opinion it is still valid. I hope hon. members will feel disposed to reinstate that evidence in this session of Parliament so that we can achieve two things: first, save time and, second, save the expense of the witnesses who travelled long distances to Ottawa to give that evidence.

I conclude by expressing the hope that we will send this bill to the committee very soon, and that we will get down to the clause-by-clause discussion of it which we did not achieve the last time. Then we can amend some of the clauses that members have expressed an interest in amending and bring the bill back to the House for final approval.

Then we can discuss specific marketing plans for particular commodities with the provincial governments and the farm organizations involved, so as to put these plans into effect as soon as possible. This should be done as quickly as possible because in my view, while a number of suggestions have been made on how to come to grips with some of the very severe marketing problems that we have today, by putting into effect the provisions of this bill and by beginning to solve some of the problems through agreement between the provincial and federal authorities, we will find the most useful and productive way of dealing with those problems in the interest of the producers.

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for having put forward Bill C-176 in this session, and I commend him for his part in the consultations which have taken place among all parties in the House. We all realize that this is a very important measure and that it could serve as a useful tool in some of the trying circumstances in which agriculture finds itself today.

The fact the minister has indicated that the government is prepared to accept some major amendments to this bill is, I think, a vindication of the stand taken in