

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** A man who is about to drown grasps at anything.

**Mr. Corriveau:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I urge him to address himself to the Chair, because it is rather difficult for the hon. members to follow an exchange they cannot hear.

**Mr. Corriveau:** Mr. Speaker, it may be my lack of experience which makes me break the rules. But since I wanted to answer the previous speaker, perhaps I did break the rules and I apologize.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that I have had several opportunities to meet farmers from my riding and they are actually waiting for this famous bill which will allow them to gain recognition throughout Canada, not individually, but collectively and not at the provincial level. We have recently witnessed experiments where the aim was to introduce marketing, to control a certain production at the provincial level, and we have seen what failures have resulted from that. It is precisely through Bill C-176 that we want to solve this problem and try to put some order in the field of agricultural products.

Some are trying perhaps to distract us with products they want excluded from the bill, but I think that should not be done. If we really want to help all producers, all farm products will have to be included in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, such a national marketing agency was created at the federal level. In fact, as I pointed out earlier, it is the Canadian Dairy Commission which looks after the marketing of industrial milk. The Commission has no power whatsoever to regulate production volumes, but it influences production through subsidies aimed at promoting the production of high quality milk and at regulating the quantities required to meet the market demand. It reduces those subsidies when farmers exceed market requirements. Bill C-176 will precisely complement the regulating function of the Canadian Dairy Commission and perhaps that of the Canadian Wheat Board. Mr. Speaker, if we want all farmers to have similar purchasing and selling power, a single marketing is needed and we must pass this Bill C-176 which provides just that.

Once the provincial marketing boards were created, producers discovered a loophole that enabled them to sell their products to another province by going around the provincial marketing board.

To prove the argument I put forward a moment ago, I say that it is impossible to try to create a marketing board only at the provincial level: we must try and create one at the national level. Therefore, the federal government passed a law to solve this problem: the Agricultural Products Marketing Act.

A great many provincial marketing boards used this legislation in the mid sixties. They were well set up in respect of several products, particularly eggs, tobacco and some fruits and vegetables as well as pork.

The hon. Minister has called our attention to the fact that competition is to be had on a different level. Now, individual producers compete for their share of the market and provincial marketing boards are waging a

[Mr. Corriveau.]

fierce war over eggs and chickens. Now, that is exactly what we want to prevent. The Opposition, seemingly, wants to abandon people to their own fate at the provincial or regional level. This is what we are attempting to control at the national level by enacting legislation applying to all provinces and areas.

May I add that I am pleased to have taken part in the debate on this bill which, in my view, is of vital importance. If we have faith in agriculture and want order to prevail in that field, I fail to see how hon. members in this House can object to a piece of legislation which is really of assistance to all farmers in this land of ours.

[*English*]

**Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear from my friend, the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe), that all the farmers in Quebec are not in favour of this type of marketing board or this type of legislation any more than farmers in other parts of the country, because there have been charges that this is just a western fight. Those charges are not true.

In support of the amendments of the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) I would like to say that these amendments make the bill less obnoxious. The bill will still not be acceptable while it contains the principle of supply management. The legislation does not specifically point out how more money will be put into the pockets of the farmers. What else are we talking about at the present time? On the other hand, the costs of administration of this type of legislation and paying for production quotas, and so on, which are contained in a bill of this kind will increase production costs.

I am not in any way convinced that spending money on supply management is justified. However, it is necessary to spend money on marketing and research. We do not need this bill in order to do that. A lot has been said in this chamber about producers wanting the bill. I would like to read one of more than 2,000 submissions that I have received from my constituents expressing concern about this legislation. I think I am justified in reading it. It is comparatively mild compared to most of the more than 2,000 submissions that I have received. I might point out to the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) that all the representations were against the bill. It seems that someone is getting at the troops if it is said the farmers of Canada want this bill. I do not think that my constituency is much different from others. This is the letter that I received; it was in no way solicited by myself:

• (5:10 p.m.)

Dear Sir:

Eastside Uniform No. 92 held a meeting April 27 for the purpose of discussing Bill C-176. This meeting passed a resolution stating that they are opposed to government intervention in interprovincial trade and national marketing legislation embodied in Bill C-176. This resolution was passed by a unanimous vote from the well-attended meeting. The members felt that cattle and hogs should be deleted from the legislation, if passed, because of their dependence on interprovincial trade, the western market for cattle and hogs being mainly in eastern Canada.

We are sincerely hoping that you can help defeat this bill which is of so much concern to western agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

It is signed by the secretary of the Eastside Uniform. This is typical of the type of submission I have received.