

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

does not have a market. However, when they bring out their 1972 models they also set the price.

I believe that a producer who is expected to put in a crop in the spring should also know what he will get for it. He does not, because many factors are involved, such as weather and other conditions which he cannot predict. He should also take into account that he is producing a commodity that is necessary but which will be regulated on the basis of the requirements of this country, which is a narrow way of looking at it. But it should be possible for that producer to know where he will financially be at the end of the year. He should be able to sit down with pen and paper and calculate how he is going to meet his expenses. If the whole principle of supply management is at all valid, which I doubt very much, that is how it should be.

I am always looking for greater efficiency on my farm. We are always struggling hard, looking for short cuts and economy. There are certain fixed expenses which cannot be avoided. I would like the House at this stage to take into account all the factors which enter into the cost of production. This amendment deserves consideration by members on both sides of the House.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): I would like to support this amendment and to indicate that while there is considerable difficulty in establishing a guaranteed forward price for a commodity, if we are going to have marketing agencies that are successful and that will produce what farmers expect of them—which is a fair price for a commodity having regard to the cost of production—prices will have to be negotiated by the farmer himself.

It is quite true that when the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) speaks of an annual forward price he is referring to a commodity which can be calculated on that basis. I think the minister will find that there are other commodities which fit into a production cycle, and the guaranteed price will be based on that cycle rather than annually.

Everyone agrees, I believe, that unless a forward price can be established there is little opportunity for the ordinary farmer to continue production of that commodity. It is true that when the feed companies are vertically integrated they can lose on the production of broilers and at the same time make considerable money in processing and converting their feed into broiler production. If they do not make anything on the broilers, they make it up on the feed, or vice-versa. So long as production is vertically integrated it will be very difficult for large producers to establish what will be a reasonable forward price.

It is for this reason that some of the farm organizations in Canada are asking that they be allowed to negotiate. The hon. member for Mackenzie pointed out that no union would start their work for the year, whether that be the contract year or some other designated time, until they knew how much they would get paid, which price would be negotiated. Obviously the farmers should be in a position to do the same thing.

The farmers union has suggested that they should bargain on behalf of the farmers across Canada, and other organizations have said that they are the people who should bargain for the farmers. I do not think it is enough to leave it to the agency to decide what the price will be on

[Mr. Korchinski.]

a day to day or month to month basis; but if the operation is successful, some forward guaranteed price will have to be established which will take into consideration the cost of production and profit. Anything less will mean, as it has in the past, that if the marketplace is the deciding factor the big ones will get bigger and the small ones will disappear from the scene. The Liberal government will then have accomplished one of its major aims, namely to get rid of the small farms across Canada.

I believe that negotiations will produce a guaranteed price on behalf of the individual. This is a collective operation on the marketplace, and anything less will be unsatisfactory so far as the small producers of any given commodity are concerned.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I think that amendment No. 9 meets a need which is becoming more and more obvious—as is clearly demonstrated, for instance, in the case of the Canadian Dairy Commission. Around the beginning of March, all industrial milk producers ask themselves questions and put pressure on members of Parliament and on the Minister of Agriculture in order to know, as early as April 1, what is the minimum price they will receive for the current year.

As I see it, producers would be best to manage their production according to the minimum prices which they expect to receive. So, if the policy which has been applied has improved the situation, it should, I feel, be applied to marketing boards. And I think the substance of the amendment is very appropriate. It reads as follows:

—a list of prices which shall be paid for a regulated product for that year—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must remind the hon. member that the question is to be put in just a few seconds. Maybe the hon. member would end his remarks within 10 or 15 seconds.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do so within 10 seconds. This allows one to end a sentence better. I was quoting:

—such prices to be compensatory for the cost of production of such product;

So the cost of production should be taken into account in order to give producers a chance to make reasonable profits.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: It being ten o'clock, in accordance with the order made earlier this day it is my duty to interrupt the debate and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the report stage of Bill C-176. The Chair proposes to put first the motions which have not yet been put to the House so that we may determine which will be subject to a formal division.

The question will first be put on Motion No. 9. Mr. Korchinski moves Motion No. 9 as follows:

That Bill C-176, An Act to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, be amended by adding the following to subclause (1) of Clause 6 immediately after line 17, page 5: