

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

further from the truth. I am not going to inflict upon the House all the pertinent provisions of the Farm Produce Marketing Act of Ontario, but just two or three to show the absolutely plain distinction.

Mr. Olson: I have it here.

Mr. Baldwin: If the minister has it why did he not read those sections that apply? I am trying to be highly parliamentary by saying that in trying to mislead this House on Thursday night he read just a part of the Ontario act. Mr. Speaker, section 5 of that act reads:

Where the board receives from a group of producers in Ontario or any part thereof a petition or request asking that a plan be established for the control of the marketing of a farm product or any class or part thereof and the board is of the opinion that the group of producers is representative of persons engaged in the production of the farm product or class or part thereof, the board may recommend the establishment of such plan to the minister.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, in the Ontario Act there is an onus thrust upon the government, upon the minister first to be satisfied by the council that there has been an initiation of a proposal by the producers and then that the council is satisfied that the proposal of the producers is representative of the producers in the area. In other words, there is a statutory requirement to that effect. I defy the minister to find in Bill C-197 anything which parallels the statutory and mandatory requirement upon the provincial government.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I gladly accept that challenge.

Mr. Baldwin: If the minister does, it will be the first challenge that he has accepted successfully.

Mr. Olson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I can quote several clauses in Bill C-197 to satisfy that challenge.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) has the floor.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I am carried away by emotion, frustration and anger.

Mr. Olson: Read section 6.

Mr. Baldwin: Section 8 provides for the holding of a plebiscite of producers upon the question of approval of a plan, amendment of

a plan or any matter respecting the marketing of a regulated product. That is a democratic way of doing business. This government does not believe in such democratic ways of doing business.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: Section 10a (1) says:

Where any person deems himself aggrieved by any order, direction or decision of a local board, he may appeal to the local board by serving upon the local board written notice of the appeal.

The only kind of appeal this government understands is the kind of appeal I remember in my early days of practising law in the Peace River country. I was defending a man on a charge of bootlegging. That was before the days when it was understood I only defended innocent people. The accused was found guilty, most improperly, and I said to the justice of the peace who had tried the case, "I am going to appeal." He was halfway to the door when I said that, and he turned around, came back to the bench and said, "Fine. I will hear your appeal now." That is the only kind of appeal this government knows, and it disallows them inevitably.

An hon. Member: You seem to be doing a bit of bootlegging, too.

Mr. Baldwin: If I had time, Mr. Speaker, I would quote all kinds of sections from the Ontario act, to show the differences between these two acts. Section 12(2) says:

Where the board is of the opinion that a majority of the producers in Ontario of the farm product mentioned in subsection 1 are in favour of the designation of the association as the representative association of all producers of that farm product in Ontario and are in favour of a proposed programme of the association for stimulating...the board may recommend to the minister—

That type of clause does not exist in Bill C-197. That is one reason why we object to the bill, to its form and to the type of clauses the government has seen fit to include in it. But there is another reason for our objection. Even if the bill were more like the Ontario legislation, we would still have doubts. We have watched this government operate over the two years it has been in power and we have watched the extent to which it has been grabbing for power and authority. We have no confidence and no trust in this government, and neither has the farming population of Canada. This bill represents the worse type of coercion, regimentation and dragooning.

An hon. Member: What does that mean?