

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

marketing plan of any kind unless they are clear in their minds that that is what they want, that conditions in the industry at that time indicate to them that it is to their benefit, and they express such opinion clearly to the government of their province, to their own livestock organizations, to their elected representatives in parliament and to the government of Canada.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, according to the announcement this afternoon this debate is rapidly coming to a close.

An hon. Member: Good.

Mr. Korchinski: Somebody said "good". I wish the hon. member would reflect on what this Parliament is passing. The title of the bill is the National Farms Products Marketing Council. I suggest that the title should more properly be "National farm products marketing and farmer control council". What this Parliament will do if and when it passes this bill—and I presume it will pass because of the government majority—is to confine production to a limited few. It will license those who will be in production.

The hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) told us the other day that he has been working on marketing boards and has a quota. That is fine and dandy; but if anybody wanted to get into business once these agencies are set up, he will not have an opportunity to get on a board because the agencies will be set up on the pattern of the Dairy Commission. No one can tell me that the Dairy Commission has not weeded out small farmers, and the denials that have come from members on the other side mean nothing to those who have been put out of business.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) made a deathbed repentance. He made an announcement today, as he did several weeks ago in preparation for an election. Before the next election he will tell us that subsidies will be available, but these subsidies will be available only to those people who are still in production.

Mr. Whelan: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member said that the marketing boards to which I belong are on quota. This is not so. New producers come on to the marketing board to which I belong and others leave every year. It costs nothing to get in and out of the programs to which I belong.

Mr. Korchinski: The hon. member himself knows that he is under contract. They will not throw the established people out, or is this the intention? What has happened with the Dairy Commission? Hon. members know that in the last five years since 1966 60,000 quota holders all across Canada have been dropped, 27,000 of them in western Canada.

Why do we protest so vociferously against this legislation? It is because we know what happened under the Dairy Commission. In Saskatchewan 10,000 farmers were dropped, in Alberta 10,000 were dropped, and in Manitoba 7,000. Where will these quotas go? A look at any projection of population trends will reveal that by the year 1980 Ontario's population will increase by one and a half million people. Quebec will have an increase of one million, one hundred thousand and the three prairie provinces will have an increase of only half a million. So where will the

[Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary).]

quotas go? Do we have a western representative on the Dairy Commission? No. Will we have one? No.

Obviously, the production will go where the population is, and that will cause a big argument. It will be argued: Why not save freight? What will happen is that they will go out of business. They want to get the cattle in. Now hon. members can understand why we protest. We have Lift and other programs, and we have quotas under the Wheat Board. If anybody tells me that we will have a quota which will make us suddenly rich, let me tell him that nobody ever sold grain when the Wheat Board quotas were low.

Farmers protested about this and every member here heard question after question being raised, and had delegations come to him. Only when quotas were raised and those people could sell their products openly did they cease protesting.

The hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) clearly indicated what will happen when this bill passes. If you are born lucky and are in production, that is fine and dandy; but if not, then you will not be able to get a licence, and when you cannot get the licence you cannot get into production. At least with the Wheat Board, if you produce anything over and above the amount it can be sold, but under this bill you will have difficulty selling. Supply management is fine for strawberries in British Columbia. It may be fine for certain products in certain regions. I do not argue that provincial organizations may be able to work well. But when you consider regions such as the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, or the Kootenays in British Columbia, they will not have the same markets. They do not need national organization because they function very well under provincial organization. This does not bother me in Saskatchewan because my crab apples will fall off the trees anyway, or the kids will eat them up; but I will not be in the business of selling. I do not need an organization all across Canada. With a product like cattle which can be produced all across Canada, there is a diversity of interest. Now both cattle raising and grain growing are restricted. There is work in industries in central Canada, but what will we do in the Maritimes or in the Prairies?

Marketing boards are fine. But when it is suggested that this proposal constitutes a marketing board, I say that that is deception. In fact it is a farmer control board. At no time will I be prepared to accept a ruling which comes from a few bureaucrats. There are several ways in which one can go broke very quickly. The first way is to gamble, the second is to spend money on women, and the third is to listen to experts. Gambling is the quickest way, women are the most fun, but listening to experts is the surest way. A group of experts will tell us, as they told us in the case of butter, that they know exactly what will happen. This year we have had to import butter from the United States, although the experts told us that they knew in advance what the requirements would be. Even with all the manipulation and computers that we have in this country, they could not foretell our needs. Nor could they prod people into production. We had to import. There are no import controls so these people could decide to unload their products here, unless this constituted dumping, in which case there is appropriate legislation to control it. This bill will do nothing for these people. All we will have