

Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill

national dividend, which would enable him, by means of a marketing system, to get his share of the national production.

It seems to me that we could then, while respecting the right of every individual to private enterprise, respect also the right of every Canadian citizen to get his share of the Canadian production.

Why penalize the dairy producers at \$1.25 per hundredweight beyond their quotas, when those people are working and when, at the same time, according to the just society's policy, we give \$6 per acre to wheat producers so that they will not produce?

While one is being paid not to produce, the other is being penalized because he does. If that is what is called a just society, I do not understand a thing.

The marketing program is an attempt to solve that problem; but it cannot be solved as long as we do not strike at the root of the real problem, that of making money available to the Canadian people.

When we penalize the dairy producer because he produces too much milk, the time has come to look back upon the past. At one time, federal and provincial advisers told the producer: Old boy, you must improve your equipment, your buildings, your herd, you must buy a ball-tank, and go into debt. And that was possible only at exorbitant, staggering interest rates.

The Minister of Agriculture knows that. One day, I introduced to him a group of potato producers of Sainte-Séraphine, in the riding of Drummond; he told them: I can do nothing for you. Those people lost their business because the minister could do nothing about it, and they were head over ears in debt. Why? Because they had followed the advice of the former government and were the victims of a policy similar to ours now.

Today, Sainte-Séraphine is a ghost-town; the potato industry, at that time, very prosperous, has now disappeared completely. Why? Some will say, because there was no marketing system. But, it must be recognized, as I do, that regardless of the marketing system, if the consumer does not have enough money to participate in it, and get his share of the production, the results are nil.

If in addition, private enterprise is done away with, not only must I accuse the government being the direct cause of the failure of the farmers and producers who lose their farms, because they are indebted, but in addition, today, through Bill C-197, through State

agencies, civil servants, inspectors, rules penalties, all kinds of things, producers have also lost control of their business. I say that is unfortunate in an economy that prides itself in being progressive and respecting the individual.

Some time ago, I witnessed an unfortunate experience in Sherbrooke. There were, 3,000 producers directly concerned by bill C-197 who came to protest against the present dairy policy.

● (5:20 p.m.)

They came to protest. They killed an ox or a cow on King Street, in Sherbrooke. It smelled of violence and rebellion. In my opinion, they were largely right to act in this manner. They cannot be held responsible, indeed, for the fact that they produce too much because the government told them to get organized to produce. In fact, it is the government that even told them to get into debts in order to produce. It suggested they improve their production, which they did. Today, without being able to express their views, they are subjected to a policy which will crush them even more. I refer to the \$1.25 for 100 pounds of milk in excess of the allowed quota, which will cut back their revenues accordingly, taking into account the quota system set by the Canadian Dairy Commission.

While I am against violence, I think that this kind of policy, should it be about wheat or milk, will nilly-willy push peaceful Canadian citizens towards rebellion, whether they are wheat or milk producers, potatoe or tobacco growers; indeed, not only have we prevented them from leading a decent life by taking their income away from them, but through Bill C-197, we will deprive them from their very means of survival, that is, their business itself.

I would not want to be one of those who have committed such an act of vandalism against the Canadian people, through unconcern, laziness, absence from the House or manoeuvres concerning the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is all I had to say. I suggest that the members of all parties represented in this House can make a concrete contribution to this debate.

We have a concrete proposal to make. I feel the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) is able to understand it, because when he was a Creditiste and was sitting in the seat I now occupy, he was saying the same things I am