

*Farm Products Marketing Agencies Bill*

**An hon. Member:** Be quiet.

**An hon. Member:** Hoot, hoot!

**Mr. Whicher:** I did not hear my hon. friend from Newfoundland. I think he is emphasizing that we should have had birth control before he was born.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whicher:** My hon. friend from Newfoundland does not realize that although he does not agree with me, many people in his party do agree with me and would, if they could, say what I am saying. My friend from Newfoundland is in the wrong.

**Mr. McGrath:** Is the hon. member talking about birth control, or this bill?

**Mr. Whicher:** The hon. member is in the wrong league. He is in the international league, and I do not think he will be back here after the next one begins.

Let me return to the agricultural industry. I pay my compliments to the members of the official opposition who in my opinion have done an excellent job in making Canada aware that the agricultural industry is not getting a fair shake in this country. I listened especially carefully to the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth). He was the official speaker for the Conservative party and he said that this bill is no good. But he did not present any alternative. He did not say, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is for this bill. He did not say that the Farmers Union is for this bill. He did not say that the little producers of Canada are for this bill and that we, as Liberals, are going to give them this bill tonight.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Danforth:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege. This is the second time in 14 years that I have risen on a question of privilege in this House, and I do so now because of misrepresentations. The speaker who just preceded me indicated that I did not say that the Federation of Agriculture supported this bill and that I did not say the Farmers Union supported this bill. The hon. member did not say that both those groups when they appeared before the committee said that they would support this bill only if their suggested amendments to it were accepted.

**Mr. Olson:** That is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. Whicher:** Let me tell my friends on the other side who are listening to me that I agree with what the hon. member said. The Farmers Union and the federation said that they would not accept the bill unless there were amendments and, Mr. Speaker, we have given them amendments.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whicher:** And, Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend did not say tonight that the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. A. Stewart, now supports this bill. He did not say where that minister stands on this bill, because that minister believes we should have put it through one year ago, not tonight.

**Mr. Danforth:** But he still has his reservations about it.

[Mr. Gibson.]

**Mr. Whicher:** The agricultural industry of Canada—I say this with bowed head—has not had a fair chance. And I say with bowed head that they have been asking for national marketing legislation for many years.

**Mr. Bigg:** You people have been in power for seven years. Why did you not introduce it sooner?

**Mr. Basford:** Why didn't Dief do something about it?

**Mr. Paproski:** Just wait until the competition bill comes up. You will be next.

**Mr. Whicher:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the help from the other side but I do not want you to think I need it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Perhaps because we have reached a late hour, hon. members want to make their speeches at the same time. I think the hon. member who has the floor should be allowed to speak.

**Mr. Whicher:** The farmers of Canada asked for an amendment that would give them the opportunity to run their own show. Actually, the Conservative party helped in this regard. They were helped by government members, because they could not have done it on their own. Under our democratic constitution, the government had a majority of members on the committee and we agreed that farmers should represent at least 50 per cent of the people running these agencies.

**Mr. Bigg:** Why not 51 per cent?

**Mr. Whicher:** Well, if the board consists of three members, and the requirement is for at least 50 per cent to be farmers, that means that two of those members will be farmers. It means that six out of nine members will be farmers on a nine-man board. Clearly, more than 51 per cent of the representatives in those cases will be farmers.

**Mr. Bigg:** Why not take a six-man board?

**Mr. Whicher:** Because there are not to be six at any time.

**Mr. Bigg:** How do you know?

**Mr. Whicher:** I know, and it is obvious that you do not know. My advice to my friends, because they are my friends, is that they should keep quiet. They are getting into difficulties. They are digging their own graves. Actually, they are jumping in. In any event, we have given the agricultural industry the right to run its own show.

**Mr. Bigg:** You have had seven years to finish the job.

**Mr. Whicher:** It will not take me more than three minutes to finish with you, my friend. The point is, we have given agriculture something it has asked for. I say to my friends on the government benches, many of whom come from great cities like Toronto and Montreal and many of whom may not be familiar with this bill, that once and for all we will give the agricultural industry of this country a chance to run its own show. We are to give the industry, agencies and councils, or whatever you want to call them, that will be comparable to the great unions running organized labour in this country. I am not like my