

• (1730)

Those are matters we had best be aware of now. They are going to be looked at by other countries at the GATT negotiations. Other countries are going to pass judgment on whether they think this enabling legislation allows Canadian governments now and in the future to influence production and, therefore, influence the amount of grains, oilseeds or crops that are in the country and whether that will adjust what might otherwise be the production level in Canada and, therefore, affect production in the rest of the world.

I would like to thank the government for all of the amendments they made at committee, and further, the amendments they made at report stage here in the House on Bill C-98.

One of those amendments was by my colleague from Algoma, which requests and ensures that the agreements the federal government makes with the individual provinces will be tabled in the House of Commons so that we can review and look at those each time the agreements are made.

The other was an amendment in my name, which covered the concerns of a lot of groups and individuals who came forward at the agriculture committee when we were going through the bill, prior to clause by clause review at the end.

The amendment states that the minister must appoint a review committee which each year must review and report to the minister with any suggestions or amendments they feel need to be made to the bill in order to improve it. I feel that is absolutely necessary. I appreciate the fact that that has taken place.

I do not think I will make any more comments, other than in closing, to say basically it is a good bill. It is not the be all and the end all. It is better than the *ad hoc* programs we have at the present time. It is filling in the second line of defence we are concerned about at the farm level.

The first line of defence, as we all know, and the only line of defence that producers and farmers want is a fair return from the marketplace for the produce, livestock and crops they produce. That is really what we want.

Government Orders

That is really what producers want and that is really what is needed.

Along with that, there has to be the government programs and the government action and force put into place to ensure that producers have a decent interest rate, not the interest rate we have now that is away out of whack, compared to our competitors, especially those south of the border.

We need proper border inspection put in place. We need a better way of counteracting the game that our friends south of the border like to play in putting up non-tariff barriers and the other word that they are now admitting they are using in the way they describe what they are doing, called harassment. They are excellent at that. We have to do a much better job on behalf of our producers, as a Parliament, in counteracting that.

The GRIP and NISA programs covered by Bill C-98 puts in place the second line of defence in order to give some stability if the first line of defence does not provide a fair return to the producers for their product.

There is the third line of defence, which the government is presently dragging its heels on by not telling the producers what it is going to do, if anything, concerning the 1991 spring year as a result of the terrible prices in farm products because of the 1990 crop prices. That is bridging financing to get the producers through the situation they are in now, until the positive effects of the GRIP and NISA programs can take place after this year.

Again I urge the government to get off its hands and get that done so the producers know where they are for this year. Hopefully producers will be able to take part in and benefit from the enabling legislation which puts GRIP and NISA in place for the long-term benefit of Canadian producers. Therefore, when they are benefiting and are productive, they will be producing the quality food that Canadians demand and deserve and they will be able to do it at a reasonable and competitive price.

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a privilege to be able to participate in this debate because there is probably no debate that we have had in this House of Commons that more directly affects more people in a whole region than the one that we are talking about now.