

AGRICULTURE

SUPPLYING OF COPIES OF FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL TO INTER- ESTED PARTIES

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that during the past three weeks members have been unable to obtain copies of Bill C-197 because of the great demand by the public for copies of this bill, would the minister use his good offices to try to bring about a further printing?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I shall endeavour to ascertain whether there has been this great demand, to whom it has been directed and whether or not the supplies have run out. It is not the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture or any other department to supply copies of bills. This is done through the distribution office and the Queen's Printer, as hon. members opposite know, but I shall check into it.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, the supply ran out three weeks ago. I know it is not the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, but I think the Minister of Agriculture should want not only members of this House but also the public to have copies of this bill available to them.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps this matter is also partly the responsibility, as has been suggested, of the distribution office. I understand that efforts are being made to obtain copies from the Queen's Printer.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture. Is it because the minister intends to withdraw Bill C-197 that copies are not available.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker. As soon as members opposite learn what the farmers think about this bill, they will be most anxious to pass it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This might be a good point at which to call orders of the day.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to ask the Acting House Leader about the business for

Inquiries of the Ministry

the remainder of this week and next week and whether the government has any idea how close it is to completing the business for this part of the session?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Today the House will continue the report stage of Bill C-202, the Arctic Waters Pollution Bill, and then proceed to the third reading of Bill C-144, the Canada Water Act. If this is completed we would deal with the report stage of Bill C-203 in respect of the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act. Friday and Monday will be allotted days. On Tuesday we would continue with any stages of the bills announced for today, if not completed, and if they should be completed I think the House would deal with Bill C-215 in respect of the franchise of electors and the election of members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Government House Leader indicate whether the government intends to bring back Bill C-197 and, if so, will the government give an undertaking that if it gets to the committee there will be freedom of expression for interested groups and that no technical objections will be taken to amendments of substance which may be moved?

Mr. Forest: Mr. Speaker, I shall bring this matter to the attention of the House Leader who should be returning to the House tomorrow.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Can the Acting House Leader say that plenty of copies of Bill C-197 will be made available immediately so that members of the House will not have to rely on canards for their information?

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting House Leader. Can he tell the House whether it is the intention of the government to completely deal with Bills C-202 and C-203 before moving on to the Elections Act next Tuesday or whenever it is?

Mr. Forest: Yes, Mr. Speaker; it is the intention of the government to complete all stages of these bills before proceeding to the Canada Elections Act.

Mr. Pringle: Mr. Speaker, might I ask the Acting House Leader if he would ask the House Leader whether he has any agreement with the opposition to stop filibustering Bill C-197?