

Animal Pedigree Act

we reached a conclusion which will be very satisfactory to the people of the nation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Clark, Brandon—Souris) agreed to.

Hon. Harvie Andre (for the Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-67, an Act respecting animal pedigree associations, as amended, be concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Andre (for the Minister of Agriculture) moved that the Bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I simply want to add my words of thanks to those already expressed by the chairman of the committee, the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), and to repeat what I said a few moments ago.

Sometimes in the country at large, and perhaps even among the membership of the House, there is some skepticism about the role of the parliamentary process and, quite frankly, the role of so-called back-benchers in that process. Those who have had occasion to follow Bill C-67 through the hearings of the legislative committee would have been reassured to discover that, as is nearly always the case, there was very little partisanship. I appreciated that very much, because it was a clear indication that all Members of the House have real concern for the well-being of agriculture. This is demonstrated almost consistently in any agricultural issue which comes before the House, particularly at committee stage.

The manner in which the amendments were brought forward, studied, and acted upon certainly demonstrates the role of public hearings. It also demonstrates the role of receiving submissions and, quite frankly, the importance of the committee process.

I appreciate that the Bill perhaps required more clarification than we would have wished, but so be it. I think the committee accepted its responsibility in a very commendable fashion.

When I say that, I refer to all members of the committee irrespective of Party. On behalf of the Government I should like to express words of appreciation for the process as it proceeded.

[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my comments will be brief. I wish to echo those of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister and the Chairman

of the Legislative Committee concerning Bill C-67 and thank all my colleagues of the House for their full co-operation in putting together a substantially improved Bill for the farm community.

This new legislation respecting animal pedigree associations which I believe will be given third reading in a few minutes contains amendments which have been long in coming and about which the least I can say is that they will bring about a much more up-to-date legislation.

[English]

The Bill before us which would regulate the activities of breed associations will be far better than previous legislation. We know that previous legislation was crying for renewal in that it had been in place for many years. As a matter of fact, we were told that it had not been amended since 1952. Obviously it was in need of amendment.

Many of the breeds and many of the issues involved in breeding animals today did not even exist at the time the last round of amendments occurred. Obviously the previous Act was due for rejuvenation much in the same way as our Official Languages Act needs to be brought up to snuff from time to time.

It is my opinion that the amendment proposed today makes the Bill better. However, notwithstanding, I know that there were groups which wanted a particular clause removed in the way the Parliamentary Secretary suggested that it was. As usual, the House will not be able to please all groups, particularly when two groups have opposing points of view on the same issue. The proposed Bill with its amendments is substantially better than what we had before, and I am sure that the House will want to give it quick passage this afternoon.

It is my hope that the Bill will become law very shortly, that it will receive Royal Assent and proclamation as soon as the other House can deal with it in what I hope will be an expeditious manner.

The industry has asked for the new Act. We have had co-operation of not only all Hon. Members of the House, as the very able chairman and I indicated previously, but we have had good co-operation from the Parliamentary Secretary, the department, and several groups of individuals representing breed associations before the committee.

As I indicated previously, I was not a member of the committee, although I think I attended three of its meetings, replacing the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) when he could not be there. I believe we were both at an initial meeting just to show our interest in the issue and to show our interest in agriculture, of course.

Having made those few remarks, I indicate my support for the Bill at third reading, as well as the support of my colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in closing the debate on Bill C-67, I should like to point out