

*The Address—Mr. Bigg*

is not talking for other members of parliament. He is certainly not talking for members of the opposition, as he was reported to be in the *Edmonton Journal* of recent date.

All we ask is that this subject be fully studied. The member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange), who happens to be a member of the government, must use his thumb to get around his riding. This is beneath the dignity of the House of Commons and beneath the dignity of the people of Canada.

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

**Mr. Bigg:** It is time we stopped poking fun at each other across the floor of the House or in the press and set up a committee to iron out this question. This committee could sit whether or not parliament is in session. Let us tell the boys in the press gallery, if they are awake, that we do not get \$18,000 unearned income. We get \$12,000 of very, very hard-earned income in some cases.

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

**Mr. Bigg:** I would like to see any three men in this country, whether they be economists or otherwise, who on \$6,000 a year, can pay for me or the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk)—the great district which I once represented which has now been increased by some one-third, making it 100,000 square miles—to travel throughout our ridings in a way comparable to that of any commercial traveller selling popcorn or ladies' corsets. I would gladly hand over my \$6,000 to them and welcome them to pay my bills. If there is any money left over they can give it to the members of the press gallery, or donate it to the fund for indigent scribes.

I am not going to say how much a good member is worth. I do not think it would be possible to pay for the kind of representation some constituencies are getting. I do not think some members of parliament should draw their pay cheques at all, but they should speak for themselves and not point the finger at other people. They should not say, "you are robbing the poor, unsuspecting taxpayer". If I were a millionaire I would not worry at all. I do not worry particularly now. I would be a member of parliament without remuneration because I love the work, but I do not want my colleagues to tell me I am ranting and raving for a lot of pay I do not earn. I would like to debate that privately or over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, if it

[Mr. Bigg.]

can be arranged, preferably with the member for Edmonton Strathcona.

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

**Mr. Bigg:** At this time, my riding is two-thirds agriculture and one-third urban. The agricultural problems in northern Alberta are very serious this year. When the Standing Committee on Agriculture travels, I hope it does not go from master farmer to master farmer and return with the idea that everybody has a nice a farming arrangement as Mr. Manning or Mr. Douglas. Apparently being premier of a province helps a man to learn how to farm properly.

Most farmers have to put up with weather conditions, and the weather conditions in northern Alberta at the present time are not a good advertisement for that province. These people are in desperate straits and emergency measures are required.

It is not the government's job to sell wheat or any other agriculture product, but it would not do them any harm to look around to find a salesman or two. With regard to sales of wheat, without being partisan about it, I suggest that some of the men who claim to have sold wheat in earlier times should be offered this employment. If they cannot do it, then they should keep quiet. But they should be sought out and offered the job. I think this wheat can be sold, even in the present, world market conditions.

What research is being done? Wheat can be turned into protein products. There is a great need for protein products in the world, particularly in Asia. We should see whether we can produce the right kind of hog to ship to Asia. It is not necessary to have a grade A hog. The people in China would be satisfied with 800 pound hogs. We could ship frozen hogs to the 700 million people of China.

We are making plans to recognize Red China. It might be a good idea if this recognition were, first of all, on the basis of world understanding, keeping human bellies full and seeing whether we can put pork into the stomachs of the people who need more food. We can forget about the pork barrel at home and think about pork on the table of the Chinese people. I would agree to recognition of Red China, and every other nation, Asiatic or otherwise, on this basis.

I do not think there has been enough government research into agricultural products. In time of war we know we can sell all the unrefined wheat it is possible to grow to the desperate nations of the world. Let us find a