

Prairie Farm Assistance Act

has called the two price system. Let the government act. We in the Liberal party request the government to bring in its legislation and fulfil its firm commitment to western Canadian farmers.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): You never answered my question.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, my time is limited. We ask the house to give consideration to this particular proposal. We also think that further consideration should be given to the act and to its administration. There are a lot of employees under this act who have to make assessments before payments of this kind can be made, and in the administration of the act the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) has brought together and established probably the toughest political machine that western Canada has ever seen. I have it from some very good people who work for the administration that they have been told in no uncertain terms that unless they will go out and carry on political organizational activity for the Tory party they will be fired.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: That is utterly false.

Mr. Nesbitt: What about Jimmy Gardiner?

Mr. Argue: Under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act the Minister of Agriculture has a tough, Tory political machine.

Mr. Jones: This is what they used to say about Jimmy Gardiner.

Mr. Argue: This machine is working in all parts of western Canada where the act applies, and I suggest that the act should go before a committee of the house so that we can consider some of the ways in which it is being administered. I also have information on another point which I should like cleared up. I should like to be able to ask the officials whether they have three types of lists provided by certain Conservative members of parliament. My information is that they have three types of lists of recommendations for the job of inspector. One list contains the names of all those who write in and ask for a job. The second list contains the names of the political partisans recommended by these members—

Mr. Horner (Acadia): This is shameful.

Mr. Argue: The third list contains the names of the partisan people who are in fact to get the appointments.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, this is a shameful attack by the hon. member on people who are serving this country properly.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Mr. Argue.]

Mr. Horner (Acadia): These people are defenceless. They cannot speak for themselves.

Mr. Argue: Let us have a committee. Members are not defenceless.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): That is why I am defending them.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would suggest to hon. members that if they want to speak they will have the floor. Since the interruptions seem to be general I am not going to indicate any particular persons, but again I would caution all members in this regard. The hon. member has two minutes.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Argue: I have two minutes and I am taking those two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: There is a question of privilege.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): We have just witnessed a shameful attack upon people who are serving their country in the administration of this legislation. They are doing a very fine job and they cannot defend themselves in this house. I feel that the hon. member for Assiniboia—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): —has broken the privileges of this house by what he has said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A question of privilege is very narrow and it affects the privileges of members of the house. The matter of whether an hon. member has gone too far or not far enough with regard to people who are not here is not a question of privilege and is a subject matter which an hon. member can take up, I am sure, in replying in the debate.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, what I have been saying now is no attack directed at the good people who are operating prairie farm assistance. It is an attack on the minister, an attack on a government that says to these people, if you are going to work for us you have to do a political organizational job for the Tory party or we will fire you. I suggest that is a misuse of this legislation.

Mr. Ricard: Bring in sworn statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order; the time allotted to the hon. member has expired.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Now, Mr. Speaker, I think any of us who have been born and raised on a farm the same as my good friend who just sat down and other members of the House of Commons, are