

Supply—Agriculture

the farmers with regard to what has been going on in this house during the last few days. This is the fact that some of our customers, because of the publicity that hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to get out of this situation—

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Olson: Some of this adverse publicity has got to our customers overseas and inquiries are now starting to come in asking us whether the whole Canadian crop is in this terrible condition.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Olson: That is not doing the Canadian farmers any good. All I and the Canadian Wheat Board will have to do is to work to repair the damage to the Canadian reputation for having good wheat on hand.

● (9:10 p.m.)

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar on a question of privilege.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection whatsoever to the minister putting his points across. We did so previously, now it is his turn. But I do object when he says that we brought up these questions for the purpose of seeking publicity.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. There is no question of privilege in what the hon. member said.

Mr. Horner: There certainly is.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar said several times in his speech that I took no action, and so on. That is his opinion and I do not object to his saying so. I believe that hon. members opposite are seeking publicity and it is my right to express my opinion also.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: Surely I have a right to express my opinion.

Mr. Stanfield: Go ahead.

Mr. Olson: Let us dispense with these phony points of order and questions of privilege then.

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is not for the Minister of Agriculture to say we are seeking publicity.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: The Minister of Agriculture suggested someone was raising phony points of order and phony questions of privilege. Let me point out that he himself is doing nothing to improve this debate by making such remarks, because the point of order was quite in order. The minister alleged we said things on this side of the house that we had not said. He was imputing motives when he suggested we were saying these things purely for publicity. I suggest this is definitely a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. So both the point of order and the question of privilege were in order.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that I am happy I am not as thin skinned as the hon. member.

Mr. Horner: It is apparent you are thin skinned.

Mr. Olson: Let us get back to the serious points in this debate on a very serious matter. An increasing number of inquiries have been coming to the responsible agencies in Canada about whether or not the whole Canadian supply of wheat is in the damaged condition which hon. gentlemen opposite alleged it is. We will have to do a great deal of work now to repair the damage.

Mr. Horner: Read Mr. MacNamara's report.

Mr. Olson: The fact of the matter is that Canada has adequate supplies of good, dry and high quality grain to fulfil all our commitments. So I say that these attempts at solving the problems by hurling allegations and accusations at someone for not having done anything, or for not having done enough—and in this case the allegations are made mostly against the federal government and its agencies—will not help to solve the problem at all. The magnitude of the whole problem is great; no one denies that. What we need is a very close co-operation and co-ordination among everyone who is involved, including those who are traditionally competitors. That is what we need to resolve this problem. With the exception of hon. members on the other side of this house, we are receiving that kind of co-operation all across the country.

I do not want to repeat what I have said about the efforts of the Board of Grain Commissioners in giving publicity to the matter of drying grain, in holding meetings and that sort of thing. I also mentioned that the Wheat Board did call a meeting and publicized the