

Supply—Agriculture

have any problems when they came here. That is what they are telling us. They do not want any fair share of the national wealth of the country. This is what the Tories tell us. They came down, the 1,100 or 1,200 farmers, on some sort of a holiday with a petition signed by over 300,000 people. This sour grapes and jealousy attitude is in my opinion merely designed to cover up their own inadequacies.

I spoke to a number of people who were here. I suppose every hon. member did. Apparently they broke up into small sub-committees of half a dozen, or something of that nature, and visited every member of parliament and discussed their problems with them. I would say that the general attitude that I obtained from them by the expressions of the ones to whom I spoke indicated that they were utterly disgusted with the Tories who came from the prairie provinces. They were of the opinion that a great number—I am not saying all, naturally it does not apply to all—of the Conservative members of parliament from the prairie provinces are nothing more than apologists for the Minister of Agriculture, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade and Commerce, with no great desire to do anything concrete about it, but merely to raise all those side issues about the delegation that came here not wanting something, confusing the issue and hoping that the people will forget about it and John will not have to live up to his promises.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): That is nothing but a bunch of lies.

Mr. Howard: Did you hear that, Mr. Chairman? As I understood the comment, it was that it was nothing but a bunch of lies.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I agree with the hon. member for Skeena that that is not a parliamentary expression. I would not like to hear it again in the house.

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

The Deputy Chairman: I do not think the remark is on *Hansard* but if it is, the hon. member should withdraw the remark.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I will withdraw the remark if it is on *Hansard*; but the hon. member stated that the majority of the delegation were amazed at the opinions of the western members and at what they were doing down here. He implied that they were doing nothing for western Canada, which is not true.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. members can have their points of view, of course.

Mr. Howard: I did not want to insist that the hon. member withdraw the remark. I merely drew it to your attention; but even if he withdraws it he still thinks it, and what is the difference? Whether he is made to withdraw it because of the rules he still carries the same misapprehension in his mind. Calling someone a liar is no substitute for a desire to resolve differences of opinion.

I should like to deal with another matter confronting agricultural people. This matter has gained a considerable amount of prominence both here and in the United States in recent years. It is commonly referred to as vertical integration or contract farming. We have seen substantially this same process develop over the years in other phases of our economy. It is something that is not confined to the agricultural industry or to farmers. For instance, we have seen it develop on the west coast in the fishing industry. I am sure, because of my talks with people from the maritimes, that the same condition exists there. We have seen the same process of vertical integration developing substantially in the logging industry on the west coast where slowly and slowly the small entrepreneur, the small logger, the small operator, had less and less chance to participate in running his own affairs, in running his own business, which was slowly and slowly gobbled up and more control exercised over the operations by larger and larger concerns. This is substantially, I say, what is happening in vertical integration in the agricultural section of our economy.

Slowly these forces, in my opinion, will put many farmers in substantially the same position, although probably not to the same degree and with the same humiliation, as were the sharecroppers in the cotton fields of the United States. There is this slow loss of control over their own destiny, a slow loss of control over the farmer's own right to produce what he thinks should be produced and what he is able to market, a slow loss of control over free marketing and eventually the possibility of loss of ownership of his own buildings and his own land. If this process of vertical integration is allowed to continue unabated the farmer could very easily find himself in the same position as the wage earner, possessing only his own muscular and mental ability but having no ownership of property, land, buildings and equipment.

I hear more smart aleck remarks. I would rather they were made in a loud enough voice for me to hear them although at the same time I know that when hon. members