

*Grain—Deficiency Payments*

of agriculture, and the minister said to him, "What do you think of the over-production of cattle?" My friend Mr. Rube Gilchrist—I am very proud to know him—said, "Mr. Minister, old mother nature has a manner of straightening out these problems." I would say to the gentlemen in the far corner, and their spokesman, that with respect to the over-production of any product they have in mind, and I presume they are thinking mainly of pigs, old mother nature has a habit of straightening out the problem.

I am convinced in my own mind that there is no threat to the eastern hog producer from the western grain producer because of the fact that, by virtue of the particularly unhappy position with respect to wheat, he may turn to hogs. The western grain grower is not essentially a hog man. You either love hogs or you don't. If you do not love them, you do not raise them successfully. I would say that the alarm expressed by my hon. friend was probably more political than factual.

May I conclude as a member representing a western constituency and as a westerner myself, that I have no particular fear with respect to the policy to be adopted by the government regarding wheat payments. May I add that with respect to the disaster which has struck western Canada in recent months, the outcome of which we do not yet know, I have no particular fear respecting the provisions of the P.F.A.A. which may be applied. I do feel, however—and this is the only point upon which I am in agreement with the hon. member for Assiniboia—that the 47 Conservative members on this and the other side of the house representing the agrarian constituencies of western Canada, are quite able and we are most anxious, to advise this government with respect to the problems of that particular section of the country.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Churchill:** Same topic?

**An hon. Member:** He is a wheat farmer?

**Mr. Speaker:** May I remind the hon. member that he introduced the motion we are now debating and that if he speaks now he will close the debate.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, no.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** He did not introduce the motion.

**Mr. Argue:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as I understand it there is only one way in which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) could speak at this time, and that is by unanimous consent of the house because he has exhausted his right to speak

[Mr. Brunsten.]

on the main motion. If he makes that request to the house the house can decide whether it wishes to give consent but, with great respect, I do not think he should now claim the right to speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** The point of order is well taken. The hon. member was not introducing a substantive motion and therefore he cannot even close the debate by speaking. He has exhausted his right on this particular subject.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, is it not the case that the amendment to the main motion has been disposed of and that therefore my right had been restored to speak on the main motion once it came before the house?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very ingenious but not very sound.

**Mr. Pearson:** I only regret, Mr. Speaker, that the rule prevents me from making my first agricultural speech in the house at this time.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker—

**An hon. Member:** Another farmer.

**An hon. Member:** A horse trader.

**An hon. Member:** "I love hogs Martin".

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all regret that the rules of the house are such as to preclude the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) from speaking at this time on this grievance.

The Leader of the Opposition will, I am sure, take advantage of the earliest opportunity to deal not only with this very subject but with agricultural problems on a much wider scale than the particular and narrow concept suggested by the hon. member for Assiniboia.

**An hon. Member:** You will be quoted on that, Paul.

**Mr. Pallett:** The hon. member is supposed to speak for himself, is he not?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** When I say the narrow concept, the hon. member, of course, would be wrong in concluding that I do not at once regard this particular phase of the matter as of the greatest importance. I could not help but feel, as I listened to the last speaker, for whom I have the highest regard, and the preceding member who sits further to my left—

**An hon. Member:** The hon. member for Acadia.