

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is exactly what I am doing now. I said the cost-price squeeze promise has not been fulfilled. Hon. members opposite were going to eliminate the cost-price squeeze. Each farmer was going to know one year in advance the price he would get for his products.

**Mr. Speakman:** He does know.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** He does not. We were told that surpluses would be disposed of and that a fair share of the national income would be guaranteed to agriculture. Not one of these promises has been fulfilled after nearly four years of office of the present administration.

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

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is why the farmers of Canada are losing confidence in this government. I want to emphasize the fact that the measure introduced by the present resolution will not do anything to solve any of these problems. In its approach to these problems, as well as in its approach to the problem of unemployment, the government is failing completely to meet its immediate and important responsibilities. It asserts that it is trying to solve the problems of tomorrow but it ignores the urgency of today. The farmers and the industrial unemployed are suffering today. The rosy picture of things to come presented by the government is not going to reduce the present misery in any way. The government has failed completely to see the fundamental changes that have occurred in recent years in Canadian agriculture. Our agriculture is not an homogeneous industry where each unit faces the same problems. Basically agriculture today must be regarded to consist of two main sectors.

**Mr. Smallwood:** Will the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** When I am finished.

**Mr. Smallwood:** Right now.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** No. The first one includes the actual or potential commercial farmers having a farm of economic size, with good arable land. This sector of Canadian agriculture does not need or want government relief. It needs primarily adequate market outlets, good credit facilities, a continuous flow of information from technical and economic research, efficient processing, distribution and marketing services and adequate protection against abnormal fluctuations in costs and prices. The main requirement, of course, is a growing market which can only be obtained by a prosperous industrial economy at home and expanding trade policies abroad. Those farmers are a great asset to our country

#### *Agreements Respecting Marginal Lands*

and although they are facing serious difficulties today they are not receiving any encouragement from this government, or certainly not any consistent with the assurances which this administration has given them. On the contrary, the farmers about whom I have been speaking are the main victims—

**Mr. Regnier:** I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**—of the restrictive and protective trade policy of the government.

**Mr. Regnier:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the hon. member who has the floor from what report he is reading.

**The Deputy Chairman:** If the hon. member for Essex East does not wish to be interrupted, he is not obliged to permit a question.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The second sector of our agricultural economy is composed of those farmers located where the land and other resources are marginal or poorer for farming. In our agricultural economy this type of farmer has become the great victim of automation and technological change just as the unskilled worker has been losing his place in our industrial life.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Who wrote that speech?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** To these questions this government does address itself in this measure but in a way that is so vague as to suggest that the most that can be done is to give it support in principle.

The minister referred to the recommendations of the Senate committee. He read out five of them and I prodded him to read the sixth recommendation of the committee on July 13, 1960. Why did he not read out the recommendations of the same committee on July 8, 1959? The first recommendation provided as follows and I quote from page 488:

That the soil survey being co-operatively carried out by the federal Department of Agriculture, the provincial departments of agriculture and the colleges of agriculture be speeded up and expanded not only in order to complete the soil mapping of the whole settled area of Canada, but also of the unsettled areas.

This policy brought in by this government, commendable as it is in principle, is two years late. Why did it not follow the statement or the magna carta of the Prime Minister, whose speech the hon. gentleman referred to and from which he quoted so extensively a few moments ago. Why did not the minister, who now asks for objective assessment of this resolution, refer to the statement made by the former prime minister of Canada who spoke in Toronto on November 20, 1956 on this very matter?