

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements

people from many parts of the world who were all Canadians living together in harmony and peace. This harmony came as a result of the children of immigrants growing up together, going to school together, playing together, working together and living together. That, in my view, is the way Canada should be. But since we have had this government in office, all of that has gone. All of that harmony has been destroyed. As a matter of fact, I think there is more racism in this country today as a result of the policies which have been pursued by this government which has been pitting one group against another, one racial group against another in an attempt to divide and conquer. I think that kind of thing has to stop because the situation is too serious for governments to play with.

People in government in this country must forget about their own selfish aims, about keeping themselves in power forever. They must start thinking about what needs to be done to help Canadians understand each other better, to help Canadians to live together in peace and harmony in the way they did before the policies of this government shook them by the bootstraps. To me, Mr. Speaker, winning is not the primary objective, though this may sound a little foolish coming from a politician. However, I think it should be possible for political parties to win by honest means and to keep power by honest means. It is high time that the philosophy was stopped that it is more important to win by devious means than if by honest means you lost the election.

• (1640)

Why is there disunity in this country, and why have people become polarized? Let us go back to the Saskatchewan situation of a few years ago. I remember a very famous quotation of the Prime Minister. The Minister of Agriculture might be interested in this. The Prime Minister asked the farmers "Why should I sell your wheat?" I would like the Minister of Agriculture to explain to me the way he explains to farmers in Saskatchewan how that kind of statement creates unity. How does that kind of statement make the west feel that it is really part of Canada and that the government is really interested in doing more for the west and making the west feel welcome in this nation? I would like to hear an explanation of how, "Why should I sell your wheat", furthers unity in this country.

I represent an agricultural constituency, and in western Canada agriculture still happens to be one of the largest industries. We want to know why there is alienation in the west. When we are dealing with the subject of unity we should examine the policy started by a former minister of agriculture, Bud Olson. He was once the member of parliament for Medicine Hat. He decided that the way to solve Canada's agricultural problem was to take large numbers of farmers off the land and leave only a few who would then farm much larger units. Theoretically, that was supposed to be economically viable. We have seen the results of that policy. The agricultural industry in the west has been trampled by subsequent ministers of agriculture, totally ignored by the whole government, and it has come to the point where western agriculture is finding it difficult to survive. If we want unity, and if we want

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

the western portion of this country to feel more strongly that it belongs to Canada, we must reverse the policy of the destruction of agriculture.

Mr. Whelan: Be honest about it.

Mr. Yewchuk: The minister is objecting because he thinks I am not being honest. I would like him to tell me why he has not done something about the beef situation in the west. Beef producers are finding it virtually impossible to carry on, but at the same time we are importing millions of tons of foreign beef. Our own producers are being squeezed out of business because they cannot make a profit. This minister sits by and says, "Let's bring all that beef in to make the consumers in the city happy."

Mr. Whelan: That is not true, either, and you know it.

Mr. Yewchuk: If the minister has any sense of fairness, he would do something about that. What representations has he made with regard to the GATT talks which are going on now in so far as the importation of beef into Canada is concerned? He has already told us that he has made no representations about the importation of dairy products, and the dairy industry is also in serious trouble. The minister said that today during question period.

Mr. Whelan: I did not say that in the House.

Mr. Yewchuk: I suggest the minister read *Hansard* if he cannot remember what he said. All these things give us some idea as to why there is not very much unity in this nation. Let us come back to Ottawa. Hon. members will recall that a few years ago some demonstrators came here from the province of Quebec. They were unhappy with the way the federal government was treating them. As they were demonstrating, the Prime Minister happened to drive by in his car. He opened the window and uttered some famous words which I will not repeat because I do not think they should be repeated in this place. However, the words certainly were not "eat cake". I would like the Minister of Agriculture, who was just interjecting, to tell me how—

Mr. MacFarlane: Oh, oh!

Mr. Yewchuk: —or the government whip to tell me how it furthers unity when the Prime Minister sticks his head out of a car window and shouts words like that to a group of protesters. How does that strengthen the desire of the people of that province who want to belong to this nation?

There are many other things I could go on about, but it is obvious that these fellows are just not interested in listening. They have their own views, and even though their own views have been a total failure for the past ten years they still have them. They refuse to examine the situation and admit that they might have been doing something wrong, that there might have been some misinterpretation as to what is holding this country together, and as to what we must do to hold the country together. We have not heard any of them voice the opinion that a re-examination on their policies is necessary.