

pened in onion marketing in Canada this year? What about fresh peach marketing in Ontario this year? What about the marketing of cherries in Canada this year?

Let us now deal with tomatoes. I have a letter from a constituent telling me what happened when his tomatoes were ready for picking. At the peak he had 500 boxes of tomatoes for sale, so he called his marketing board. They gave him an order for 20 packages of tomatoes, or 800 pounds. I have a copy of his account sales from the marketing board. The tomatoes were sent to Vancouver and he received \$50 for them, seven cents a pound. The marketing board told him this was because of the produce coming in from the United States at, they allegedly told him, 3½ cents a pound. He got seven cents a pound shipped to Vancouver. If the wholesale and retail mark-up and transportation had taken an equal amount, that would mean that tomatoes should have been selling for 14 cents a pound in the stores in Vancouver. I wonder how long it has been since we saw tomatoes at 14 cents a pound retail?

When the peach crop in Ontario reached its peak for marketing, what happened? There was an influx of peaches. I do not think the minister did very much about this, although I heard him say in committee he was going to give the growers a cold storage subsidy so they could build CA storages to put their peaches in, and then market them at Christmas after everybody else had had a good run at the market and the fruit had lost peak condition. What a way to market Canadian produce! The producer is denied the marketplace at the peak of production and the government is going to help him spend the taxpayers' money to put the crop into cold storage, and then bring it out after everybody else has had a run at the market. The minister said that his researchers told him this could be done. I have never heard of such research. Peaches are one of the most perishable products. I would like to see the day when you could put them into CA storage until Christmas after they had been picked in August.

Why does the minister not tell the Canadian people that none of the prices for farm products are set in Canada? The beef producers are finding that out today, although we have been telling them for years that it was going to happen. We know from experience what has been going on because of lack of policy. Prices are not set in Canada, but outside. We had a really good price structure this year for apples, one that would probably have brought us in proper remuneration considering the increased cost of inputs such as labour, spray, gasoline and diesel fuel, farm machinery, and so on. What happened? There was a large apple crop in the state of Washington and they started rolling cars in. Immediately the price went down and this was the price we had to compete with. So we are back down to the price we got three years ago, but we are not paying the price for gas that we paid three years ago.

What is the minister doing to help us in the area of transportation? We cannot get cars. In the Okanagan Valley we are short 73 cars for shipping fruit. We have a railroad just south of the border which is willing to haul our fresh fruit at no extra cost to us if we agree to send it through the United States and back into Canada. It is the Burlington Northern and it has the rail cars. Yet what has happened? The Customs people have decided that they cannot go five or ten miles and put their stamps on the

Agriculture

cars and seal them. That is too far for them to go, even though the railroad has offered to pay their way down there and back. Therefore we cannot take advantage of this service. What a way to do things! We are told that our cars are in the United States, yet there are empty American cars which are available if we want to ship our produce.

● (2150)

Yesterday I mentioned the apples that are sold in the House of Commons restaurants and cafeterias. We cannot ship our apples to Ontario and Quebec. The Americans are getting their apples here and they fill the vacuum quickly. More than likely, that is why we cannot bring our apples in. American apples certainly come in. Mr. Speaker, what a way to handle the crops of Canadian farmers!

I have in my possession a study on tender fruit. I do not know if it has been released officially but I have a copy of it. It does not contain too much input from the industry. It says, in so many words, that there should not be any canneries in Canada. I point out that this publication was put out by the Department of Agriculture. It says that we should market everything we grow in the fresh state. You must market fresh fruit as well as canned fruit. You cannot market just fresh fruit. Yet the people who put out this publication are saying to the producers of Canada, "Send your produce to Australia, to California, to South Africa or to anywhere else in the world and take jobs away from Canadians." That is what they are saying, instead of, "Look, we want a healthy canning industry in Canada and we will see to it that we have a healthy canning industry."

Last year the people in Quebec sent 250,000 boxes of apples across the line to be processed. They should have been processed in Quebec. There was a shortage of apple juice in Canada and the apples should have been processed in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him under the order made earlier today has expired.

Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, over the years I have developed a great respect for the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), the mover of the motion we are considering. I have grown to respect him for his deep knowledge of agriculture as well as of other subjects which we discuss in the House. Frankly, however, I submit that in moving the motion standing in his name today he has made a mistake. The last sentence reads in part "—the government has weakened the over-all agricultural economy". If that motion had been presented five years ago or two years ago, or at any time in the 20 years prior to the last two years, very few people would have stood in this House, or in any provincial legislature, and denied the correctness of it, if they spoke with truth and sincerity. Why do I say that?

Since the end of the last war the farmers and others making up the agricultural industry of Canada have not been given a square deal. That they should be given a square deal has been emphasized by politicians at all levels of government and of all parties. Nevertheless, in my view the people of Canada have never appreciated that