

ing student. We selected him because we wanted a bilingual representative on the board.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): I presume the minister is answering me. I asked him about the marketing experience of these men, and he has not mentioned any marketing experience, with the exception of that of the chairman. I know the minister wishes to answer the question, and that is why I am attempting to make it clear.

Mr. POULIOT: The chairman is a responsible man on an irresponsible board.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Does the hon. member feel his question has not been answered?

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): I am asking the minister to state the marketing experience of the members of the marketing board. I was quite satisfied with the answer given in regard to the chairman. He then proceeded to outline other qualifications of the remaining members of the board, but he has failed to mention their marketing experience.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member asked about the marketing experience of the gentlemen on the board?

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): Yes.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): In my answer I stated the marketing experience of Mr. Leitch, and I stated further that so far as I knew Doctor Booth had no merchandising experience. However I indicated that he was a student of marketing, as were the other members of the board. I think the hon. member will agree in this, that although from some quarters there has been criticism because men more actively engaged in marketing were not placed on the board, for every comment of criticism there have been nine others of commendation.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): People who did not know.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member interjects that these were people who did not know. I state that there were many people who thought exactly as the hon. member who has interrupted, who are now among the loudest in their commendation of the board.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): No.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member cannot answer because he does not know about whom I am speaking.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): No.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The hon. member is suggesting that people have not come to me

and made the statement I have indicated, despite the fact that he does not know about whom I am speaking. That is typical of the attitude taken by the hon. member in matters such as these.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): I will tell you in a minute what my attitude is.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): These people who have come, with one exception, have gone out of their way to pay tribute to the calibre of the men on the board. These men are unbiased, unprejudiced and all have had more or less experience in the study of agricultural marketing.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): But not in the practical application of it.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): They act as men interested in agriculture, with a knowledge of agriculture and the conditions under which the farmer is labouring. They endeavour to get the farmers' viewpoint and to endeavour to give what assistance they can by way of advice in the forming of schemes.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): In order that I may be clear in the matter I should like first to ask if we are discussing item 263 of the estimates, a vote of \$545,500 for the Natural Products Marketing Act, 1934?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I believe that is correct.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): By what stretch of the imagination does the Minister of Agriculture believe that the money paid by the taxpayers of Canada should be used to educate—and I am using a very moderate term—or to coerce the producers of different commodities to adopt the ideas or policies tabulated or formulated in the minds of so-called supermen who have been chosen by the Minister of Agriculture to tell Canadian producers things that those producers know much better than the technical experts the qualifications of whom, in reply to a question of the hon. member for Ontario, the minister has just described?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): May I correct that? These schemes are not prepared by members of the dominion marketing board; they are submitted by the producers themselves.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): I thank the minister for his explanation, because it affords me the opportunity to place before the committee certain facts in connection with the modus operandi of paid government propagandists in connection with certain schemes which have been presented to producers. The Minister of Agriculture has said quite truly