

is a policy which will encourage farmers to produce what they can sell, rather than to try to sell what they produce.

We know that this year the Department of Agriculture will spend from nine to ten millions in order to protect our animals from parasites, and to develop more scientific methods of production, in order to increase production and lower costs, all of which the industrialist might consider was a bonus. A great deal more can be done, and certainly the farmers of this country will have to learn to produce more cheaply. I think it will be generally agreed that farmers should be encouraged to produce other products than wheat. Take, as an example of what can be done, the development of soya beans by the Ford Motor Car company. The manufacture of alcohol and several other lines of production which have not so far been given much consideration might well be opened up. I know it might be said that it is no use mentioning other lines of activity in which the farmers might engage, because that still leaves the problem of the wheat crop. I realize that diversification would not be the whole solution; but undoubtedly we need more research, more expansion of production and more support for the diversification of agriculture so that we can produce the things we can sell, rather than trying to sell what we produce.

In connection with these proposals of the government, we find members who have formerly criticized any form of bonus or subsidy as the most vicious form of policy, actually supporting a policy which does not subsidize or bonus the farmers to do something but bonuses them to do nothing, and that at a time when the nation is pleading for an all-out war effort, at a time when there will very soon be a shortage of labour. At this very time we are inaugurating a policy embodying a vicious principle similar to the dole, giving people something for nothing. I feel that in this policy we have the greatest political gunshot prescription for agriculture that I have ever seen brought before the house. When one thinks for a moment of what the Minister of Agriculture can do with it—he smiles, and I would smile too if I could see any hope ahead for agriculture in these policies—

Mr. GARDINER: I see a lot of trouble ahead for me.

Mr. ROWE: The minister says he sees a lot of trouble ahead for him. I can see in the far distance—I do not like to state it in advance—

Mr. GARDINER: Say it.

Mr. ROWE: The minister says, "Say it." I can see plenty of possibilities for political corruption in it too, in western Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Mr. ROWE: Some hon. members say "oh". Here is the government bringing down its proposals for agriculture, and the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader) says that he does not want to have anything to do with the baby. The hon. member for Wellington North (Mr. Blair) also said that he did not want to have anything to do with this baby. No wonder that, as I said the other evening, neither the Minister of Agriculture nor the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) was courageous enough to father this child alone, so they introduced it jointly. I do not know which of the two might best be called its father, but it looks to me more like the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Does the hon. member want to adopt it?

Mr. ROWE: No, I would not want to adopt it, because I think it will prove the most difficult child that has ever been raised by this house.

An hon. MEMBER: You would bring it up a Tory.

Mr. ROWE: No, there is nothing Tory about it. It is a wild political idea framed to get votes in western Canada and to strengthen the machine that has been built up in Saskatchewan. It is useless so far as being any solution of the wheat problem is concerned. I am not surprised that it has been said that this is more of a ministerial child than a party child, and I am not surprised that it was more or less introduced to the public before being introduced to parliament. The minister shakes his head, but his henchmen in western Canada had certificates printed—

Mr. GARDINER: The certificates are not printed yet.

Mr. PERLEY: The applications then.

Mr. GARDINER: The applications are not printed yet.

Mr. ROWE: The western papers, the *Regina Leader Post*—I do not have it here, but no doubt the minister has seen it—says that the machinery is all set up.

Mr. GARDINER: There is not even one of the forms drafted yet, let alone printed.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The secretaries of the municipalities said that the scheme was all arranged.