

Agricultural Products—Price Stabilization

across Canada the main problem is the increase in cost of production faced by the farmer; the things the farmer has to buy and the increasing demands of modern living.

Farm costs for education continue to be burdensome. Drainage continues to be a problem in many eastern Ontario farming areas, and so, Mr. Speaker although I am a member representing a constituency in eastern Ontario I want to say that I am interested in this bill as it affects farmers from coast to coast. Our government does not intend to see farmers remain the forgotten men in Canada and that is why I take great pleasure in supporting this bill.

Mr. Louis Lewry (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness) has brought in a reprint of Bill No. 237 and I wish to suggest the following draft as the only language which adequately describes the intent of the government in this so-called price support bill:

I suggest the number of the bill should be "Oh Oh". It should be entitled "An Act Not Respecting Certain Election Promises" and its short title should be cited as "The Harkness Howler".

Clause 1: Any resemblance between this act and parity prices is too ridiculous for further comment.

Clause 2: The minister may, if he likes, place price supports under such agricultural products as: mushrooms—in season—avocados; jelly beans; tamales—hot and sweet—red peppers—properly screened—and unfermented cactus juice.

Clause 3: The level of price supports shall be 80 per cent of 80 per cent of the poorest 10-year average price during the most depressed market period which the minister can dream up.

Clause 4: It shall be unlawful for anyone to read, quote, refer to or remind the Prime Minister of his numerous and colourful references to parity prices in previous sessions.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member knows that we do not discuss clauses of the bill on second reading. I take it he is dealing with the principle of the bill.

An hon. Member: He is referring to the lack of principle.

Mr. Lewry: There is no principle in the bill.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I believe it is in order for a member to refer to clauses without discussing or itemizing them seriatim.

[Mr. Baskin.]

Mr. Lewry: Mr. Speaker, there is just one more clause to which I would like to refer and that is No. 5.

Clause 5: This act shall come into effect only in the event of a general election being upon us and shall cease and expire as soon as the last ballot box has been emptied.

Ordered and decreed by the Hon. Douglas Harkness, N.P. standing for "no parity".

This bill to be known as the bill most likely to move more farmers off the farms in the shortest time in Canadian history. Mr. Speaker may I call it ten o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: Does the house wish to call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has a few minutes left at his disposal.

Mr. Lewry: Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from my home constituency and in the city council of the city of Moose Jaw in which I had the honour to serve for some years I noted that the council has passed a resolution in view of the bill which has been before us on one or two occasions, namely Bill No. 237. I would like to present to this house the articles as contained in the resolutions passed by the Moose Jaw city council as follows:

That in view of the continued drop in farm cash income in Saskatchewan in the years 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957, and continued upward trends in prices the farmer must pay for living and production costs,

Therefore be it resolved that, in an endeavour to solve the cost-price squeeze, this conference go on record as recommending deficiency payments be paid from the treasury of Canada on wheat, oats and barley delivered to the Canadian wheat board; payments to be based on at least 20 cents a bushel for wheat and an appropriate amount on oats and barley delivered in the crop year 1955-1956, the end of which marketing period was May, 1957;

And further, realizing the big drop in prairie income has been in the above grains, the deficiency payments apply also to the 1956-57 deliveries when that market period ends.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, that has absolutely nothing to do with this bill and I would request that the hon. member be required to stay within the provisions of the bill. Wheat, oats and barley in the wheat board area are not within the provisions of this bill.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: I had my doubts as to whether deficiency payments were the subject matter of this bill and the hon. member raised the question of whether wheat, oats and barley are covered by the bill.

Mr. Argue: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I take it from having read the bill and from the minister's own statement that