

*Supply—Agriculture*

record in about three minutes. I do not suppose the Minister of Agriculture went to this joint meeting of Kiwanis clubs and talked to them for only three or four minutes.

**Mr. Gardiner:** On a question of privilege, there was no reporter at the meeting. The only document which the press had is the one which my hon. friend has. I have not seen any report in any press except what was based upon this statement. That is the only statement the press has and that is the one that appeared right across the country. When a reporter gets a statement like that he does not always put it out in those exact words. Quite often he rewrites it in his own way. I have not seen any report in the press anywhere that expresses any idea that is not in that statement. I think that that is a correct record of what was said and a correct record of what was reported to have been said.

**Mr. Argue:** I was about to suggest to the minister that he should do in the committee what he says he did in Regina and turn the cards face up. The agricultural producers of Canada want to know if the government is going to stabilize beef prices.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** On a point of order, it is not very often that I come to the defence of the Minister of Agriculture because he does not need anybody to come to his defence, but I seem to have started all this trouble and I am going to suggest to my hon. friends that I represent a farm riding just as they do and as we have had an explanation—

**An hon. Member:** The point of order?

**Mr. Cruickshank:** The point of order is that the minister was out of order and so were you. Let us pass the item and help our fellow farmers. You are both out of order as it had nothing to do with this.

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. Several hon. members, especially on the opposition side, asked the Minister of Agriculture to give a progress report on the situation in the quarantined area. Of course whatever discussion resulted from that was declared to be out of order. At the request of the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth, who said that he was giving the minister another opportunity, the minister finally consented and did give a progress report. While doing that he said repeatedly that he was out of order, but he added that if the committee would bear with him he would carry on. At that particular moment I heard the hon. member for Greenwood say that he could do it with unanimous consent. I do not know if that remark reached the minister, but I heard it.

[Mr. Argue.]

Since no hon. member raised a point of order I took it that the minister had unanimous consent to give that progress report. I think it is the sense of the committee that that progress report was welcome.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Assiniboia now wishes to elaborate on that and bring in the question of the stabilization of floor prices and other matters. I cannot forget that we are now discussing item 563 which relates to compensation to be granted under two acts. If the hon. member has unanimous consent of the committee to—

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Deputy Chairman:**—discuss other agricultural matters, then I am in the hands of the committee.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Let it go.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Unless the hon. member has the unanimous consent of the committee to discuss matters outside of the question of compensation I must ask him to confine his remarks to the item under discussion.

**Mr. Argue:** I shall confine my remarks to the matter of compensation. I do want to add that the only conclusion I can come to from all that the minister has said tonight is that the government has at this moment absolutely no intention of placing a floor under beef prices.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** That has nothing to do with it.

**Mr. Argue:** The minister has given us a report of the amounts of money that have been paid to farmers as compensation for livestock slaughtered, and if I remember correctly an amount of \$21,000 was paid to a packing plant. The minister did not mention the name, but that would be the Burns Company. I would like to know how many head of cattle and hogs, or whatever it was, the item covered. Then, when the minister answers, I should like to ask him one additional question.

**Mr. Abbott:** Is that a guarantee—only one?

**An hon. Member:** Do you think the farmers are getting too much?

**Mr. Argue:** No.

**Mr. Abbott:** Refer it to the committee on agriculture.

**Mr. Gardiner:** There are 49 steers, two years old; one female, a cow six years old. The first steers to which I have referred were two years old and in good condition. I now refer to 24 steers, which comprise the next group, and which were in fair condition, of a