

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

there is the line, "I got plenty of nothing", which would combine both of my hon. friend's versions.

Mr. Warren: Is there anyone over there who could make a better job of it?

Mr. Graydon: Stop that official effort over there.

An hon. Member: Quack, quack.

Mr. Diefenbaker: We have a surplus of ducks in the house. Alone and by itself the radio speech which the minister placed on *Hansard* yesterday would feel almost like an orphan, and it must have companionship. I give it that companionship, with a number of speeches delivered by my right hon. friend during the election campaign. On May 12, speaking at Simpson, he said:

Market is safe, Gardiner says

Hitting out at political opponents who have been accusing the Liberal government of losing Canada's markets, agriculture minister Gardiner declared at a public meeting at Simpson Wednesday night there is no truth in such suggestions. "We could sell much more of most farm products if we had them in surplus supply," he said.

Then on June 11 I find this:

"We are not losing our overseas contracts," declared Mr. Gardiner. "All contracts automatically expire at the end of the year and are then renewed with amendments if need be. Canada has no surplus of goods and we are not losing our contracts."

On May 10, speaking at Regina, the minister is reported as follows:

"Wheat selling is not a problem. The problem facing Canadian agriculture was not the question of selling wheat to Britain but the question of finding additional markets for Canada's wheat surpluses," agriculture minister Gardiner said in Regina on Monday.

That is why, when the minister spoke yesterday, I expected him to tell us what is being done in this connection. He mentioned FAO and said they were going to buy some of our surpluses; but that is merely a temporary expedient.

Mr. Gardiner: Read the rest of those speeches and you will find the answers.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That same report goes on to say:

Mr. Gardiner said there had never been any doubt of Britain's ability to buy wheat from Canada.

Then on June 24 he said:

There is no evidence to support the contention . . . that Canada is losing the British market for food—

Mr. Gardiner: You are not reading from that speech at all. Read the Simpson speech.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister wants to choose the speeches I am

to read. I have been fairer than he asks; I have not indulged in any selectivity, but am reading the whole record.

Mr. Gardiner, addressing a nomination convention of the Moose Jaw Liberal association, said there is no difficulty now, as there had been in the thirties, in finding markets for our wheat. The minister added that "we are going to have an election but I don't know when it will be."

I suppose it is merely coincidence that those last two sentences come together. Then I have another dispatch dated May 30:

Agriculture minister Gardiner Saturday night predicted that the United Kingdom soon will have sufficient dollars to buy more foodstuffs from Canada. "The United Kingdom and other countries," he said, "are going to be able to pay shortly." "In Canada two things were needed in the immediate future," Mr. Gardiner said, "more food products to sell—

Yes, Mr. Speaker; to the horticultural association we have a surplus; to the House of Commons yesterday there is no surplus. Well, my time is up, though I have many more quotations.

Mr. Gardiner: I will read the rest of them when I get up again.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I trust it was only modesty that kept the minister from reading the rest of them yesterday.

Mr. Gardiner: It was only the fact you would not give me more time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I conclude by asking the minister and the government to place the trade situation before this house. The ministers say that trade is flourishing, that we have nothing to fear; yet while the right hon. gentleman was speaking yesterday this dispatch was coming over the teletype from Geneva:

Britain gave notice yesterday that she will order new cuts in her dollar imports if the demand for British products in the United States declines.

The minister told us how well trade was being maintained and developed; yet the record for January, published by the bureau of statistics, showed a falling away in British trade, and yesterday at Geneva the British government announced that there might be further restrictions. That is why, at the risk of reiteration, we on this side of the house, believing in our responsibility, have asked and repeated, the trade situation being so serious and the time so propitious, that at the earliest possible moment a commonwealth trade conference should be convened. It was in a spirit of helpfulness that the motion was moved, and that is the spirit in which it is again advanced today. People have a right to know the facts, instead of having from ministers of the crown statements which are so utterly incongruous. On the one hand that there are no surpluses; on the other hand that there are surpluses.