

Supply—Agriculture

undergone a great and fundamental change. When he was in the opposition he was one of the most vigorous of those who took part in agricultural debates, speaking, as he often did, on what he called cost-price squeeze. The Minister of Agriculture spoke in the house in 1959, as reported at page 1680 of *Hansard*, as follows:

It is quite easy to see from these figures in which years the big increase in farm costs took place. It was during the years up to and including 1952. From then on the increase in costs has been nothing like as marked as it was before and, as I say, last year it amounted to only 1.2 per cent.

Despite the fact that the minister said the big increase in farm costs took place in the years up to and including 1952, a little further on in his remarks, at page 1681, he said:

The farmer was in a severe cost-price squeeze for several years up to 1958.

He did not say this, of course, specifically, but he was obviously trying to give the impression that since he has become Minister of Agriculture the upward course of the cost of goods and services used by the farmers of Canada has been arrested.

Mr. Harkness: That is correct.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am going to challenge the statement of my hon. friend, and I am going to prove that it is not correct. The index prices do not bear out this statement, or the last observation of the Minister of Agriculture. The figures are given for three months of each year, and for 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958 they are as follows. I ask the Minister of Agriculture to correct me if those—

Mr. Harkness: Where is the hon. member getting those figures?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Those figures come from the minister's own publications, the ones to which I have already made reference.

Mr. Harkness: What publications are those figures from?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Well, if the minister will look at the Review of Agricultural Conditions in Canada for the various years he will find what he asks. If I am wrong I want to have it pointed out. I hope my hon. friend will point it out as I go along. In 1954—

Mr. Harkness: What year's review is the hon. member on, and what page?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am dealing now with 1954.

Mr. Harkness: We do not want any more from the Martin bureau of statistics.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What you do want is the truth.

Mr. Harkness: Yes.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You want an accurate statement.

Mr. Harkness: I have given you one.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What you do want is an accurate statement.

Mr. Harkness: I have given you that. I am asking you what page you are referring to.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You take my figures and see whether they are correct.

The Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt hon. members, but the present exchange and the way it is being conducted is not quite parliamentary. If the minister wishes to interrupt the hon. member for Essex East he must ask his permission to ask a question or he may raise a point of order or a question of privilege, but the Chair cannot permit the present exchange across the floor of the house.

Mr. Harkness: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is going to quote statistics purporting to be from an official publication, under the rules of the house he must give the name of that publication and the page from which he is quoting.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your intervention, which obviously will be of great assistance as I pursue my argument.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I appreciate your intervention, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister of Agriculture is not unfair in part of his request. Since we are in committee I shall continue to make my observations and will come back to this point, at which time I will give him the exact page numbers which I do not have at the moment.

Mr. Harkness: Well—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): It will not destroy the basic argument. If my hon. friend wants to make my speech he is at liberty to do so, but I am going to tell him that it will not be exactly the same kind of speech I am now about to make.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, again I must insist that the rules of the house be followed. If the hon. member is going to quote statistics purporting to be from an official publication he must give the name of the publication, the year and the number of the page from which he is quoting.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Your request is perfectly fair and I propose to do so. I said