stood and supported the New Democratic Party in their efforts to have this bill changed, namely, the hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Bigg), the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh) and the hon. member for Palliser (Mr. Schumacher). Now, who is hand in glove?

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.

Mr. Rowland: There are probably two or three others who would have liked to do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I think that on reflection the hon. member will realize he has misconceived the purpose of the vote yesterday. It was not a vote to change the bill, but it was a vote to delay the proceedings. It was in relation to that that we cast our vote.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The point raised by the hon. member for Peace River is hardly a point of order. At this time the Chair might take the opportunity of asking the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland) to relate his remarks so far as possible to the amendment under discussion. The Chair does not see any way of relating the last remark of the hon. member to the amendment we are studying at this time.

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to reply briefly to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Peace River and then continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The Chair hesitates to allow the hon. member to give any kind of reply to the point of order that was ruled out by the Chair and would hope that the hon. member would return to a discussion of the subject that is before the House at this time.

Mr. Rowland: I shall do so, Mr. Speaker. The point of this debate is to have this bill changed so that it will be based upon consideration of net income rather than gross income. That is why the agriculture ministers of the three prairie provinces came to Ottawa; that is what they asked the government to do and that is why they negotiated a cooling-off period in order to permit the federal government to consider that recommendation. It was because the federal government abrogated that agreement unilaterally that we moved adjournment of the debate yesterday. We thought it was a betrayal of confidence, a betrayal of confidence that would never have taken place had those provinces been other than Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. It certainly would not have happened had it been Ontario and Quebec that were concerned.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rowland: I said yesterday that we are getting fed up with that kind of treatment and we will not stand for it any longer. This bill is where we draw the line. We want it changed and we hope the minister will see fit to make the changes that are necessary.

[Mr. Rowland.]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, although the subject of this bill is not part of my departmental responsibility, as a western Canadian—

Mr. Paproski: This is going to be good.

Mr. Richardson: —I feel compelled to enter this discussion. I feel compelled to do so because of the importance of this bill to western Canada, to western agriculture, and in fact to the whole country.

Mr. Paproski: We know Jimmy is going to tell the truth.

Mr. Richardson: In considering the amendment to the motion moved by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) in which he proposed to alter the motion moved by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave), I have heard a few debating points. I have read in *Hansard* some technicalities and I have seen certain signs of indifference, Mr. Speaker. I want to say now, as I rise in my place, that there is a time to play politics, and there is a time to—

• (3:00 p.m.)

Mr. Horner: Obey the law.

Mr. Richardson: —get on with the urgent business of this nation. This, of all times, is not the time to play politics with the livelihood of western Canadian farmers.

Mr. Horner: The government is playing politics with them. It has played politics for ten months with $60 million.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Is the hon. member for Calgary North rising on a point of order?

Mr. Woolliams: No, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would permit a question.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I have just begun. I will answer all questions in due course or, if I do not, I will accept them later. I will not accept questions at this time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Hon. members know they may not ask questions of the minister unless he gives them permission. Apparently the minister has not given such permission.

Mr. Richardson: The central issue to be decided—

Mr. Woolliams: Is whether the government will obey the law.

Mr. Richardson: —is not the payment of $100 million and is not just the stabilization plan, important though these are. The important issue is this: who understands, who really understands, the great contribution made by the men who work the top soil of the great plains?

Mr. Skoberg: Who wrote that for the minister?

Mr. Richardson: In the points I want to raise, I want to demonstrate that it is the architects of the stabilization bill who really understand.

Mr. Horner: Now, I have heard everything.