

*Supply—Agriculture*

**Mr. Stanfield:** And you are in office now.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Where?

**Mr. Olson:** In any event, those are the facts. Those two years were also associated with the highest crops on record. In 1966 we had almost 840 million bushels, and perhaps through the effort of the government—I prefer to refer to it as the efforts of the Canadian Wheat Board—we were able to dispose of the major part of that crop without building any surplus. In my opinion that was a great achievement.

**Mr. Olson:** I can bring a sheaf of letters in here and show that the corn producers and the practical, knowledgeable people in that area claimed it raised their price from 11 cents to 12 cents a bushel within ten days. As a matter of fact, the price of corn in Chatham yesterday was \$1.17½ for street, and it is up to \$1.21 for May and \$1.23 for July futures. So the future is somewhat better. Maybe it is not enough; it is never enough. But this indicates that the Leader of the Opposition is not in touch with the people who know, in that part of Canada.

The hon. gentleman then went on to talk about other problems. So that he will not have to bother looking up the facts for himself, let me tell him also that from August 1, which is the beginning of the crop year, to the end of October we have increased our exports by 25 per cent over last year. Our exports have increased by some 23 million bushels over those of a year ago, making a total for that short period of time of something over 94 million bushels.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Horner:** Would the hon. minister permit a question?

**Mr. Olson:** He then went on to repeat some of the complaints that have been hurled around this house for the last few days about grain drying, and tough and damp grain. He said nothing has been done and the government generally was not living up to its responsibility with respect to this great problem. I categorically reject that statement. I have spent the last three days in western Canada. I spent some time with the delegates to the Alberta wheat pool convention in Calgary, and at two meetings in Brandon which were attended by farmers from all over the province. The minister of agriculture for Manitoba was there. I have been talking to the minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan today and many times recently. In Alberta there are some other activities going on and it is a little difficult to get hold of the minister right now, but I tried to call him, too.

**Mr. Olson:** The Leader of the Opposition did not bother to do his homework in this respect.

**Mr. Horner:** Would the minister permit a question?

**Mr. Olson:** The hon. member will have all kinds of chances to put all kinds of questions.

**Mr. Horner:** It is just a short question.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please.

**Mr. Olson:** I have pages and pages of questions, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Do you have regrets?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. The hon. member for Crowfoot is rising on a question of—

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to answer the hon. member's question after I have answered all the question I already have before me.

• (9:00 p.m.)

The Leader of the Opposition complained that the government did not do anything in the face of some difficulty that the corn producers in southwestern Ontario were having. I tell the Leader of the Opposition that in the face of some difficulty—and he is aware of this—we put on value for duty at the United States loan price of \$1.05 U.S. f.o.b. Chicago, on corn entering Canada.

**Mr. Olson:** I say to the Leader of the Opposition that this is one of those kinds of statements that usually are made when you have not bothered looking up the facts. The facts of the matter are that there have been meetings called by the Canadian Wheat Board and the Board of Grain Commissioners in full cooperation with the provincial departments of agriculture, who not only have to, but in fact have assumed a reasonable share of the responsibility for resolving this problem, as has the whole grain industry. They have taken an active part in trying to find solutions to this problem, in time. That is why I resent and reject the statement that the people concerned in the area are not doing anything about it.

There is one other thing, Mr. Chairman. In addition to all the assistance that can be