

Mr. Whelan: Just give me a little more time. I can think of ministers who have been here a lot longer than 2½ months; that goes for all parties.

An hon. Member: How about next Monday?

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Whelan: They never put into force any of these programs that should have been put into force.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West on a point of order.

Mr. Rose: I hate to deflect the hon. member from his course when he is in full flight—perhaps a little out of control, but nevertheless in full flight. However, he made the statement that if he had his way he would keep all food out of the country unless we needed it, Canada is a net importer of food, and he would not move toward tariffs. I ask the hon. minister how he would achieve this kind of imperviousness to the importation of food if he did not use tariffs.

Mr. Whelan: Many of the countries that we deal with do not import Canadian goods without a permit. Just try to export something to the United States and find out how restrictive they are. This country's policy toward free trade is one of the best. I certainly would not be so restrictive that I would not allow food to be imported if we needed it or if a marketing board got out of control. I do not think our producers want to cause a rip-off; they just want a square deal. We have no intention of allowing a smart operator to bring in cheap products in order to make a fast buck and the consumer not get any benefit.

An hon. Member: You would agree that Canada is sinned against and the rest of the world is a sinner.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree with the minister. He has spoken explicitly and strongly on this matter—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Before allowing the question I should bring to the attention of hon. members that they should not take advantage of points of order or questions of privilege to ask a question. They should get the consent of the hon. member who has the floor because the time taken up by a question is part of the time allotted to the hon. member who has the floor.

Mr. Rose: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I ask permission of the minister, through you, to ask a question. If the minister declines to reply, he has a perfect right to do so. But if he is willing to entertain the question, I would be pleased to hear his reply.

An hon. Member: He answered it. What more do you want?

Mr. Rose: The minister's reply to the question is most satisfactory to members who represent rural or semi-rural ridings, and I congratulate him on it. However, he said, "if I had my way" and I should like to know if he has brought that type of representation to cabinet and, if so, what kind of results has he been getting?

Supply

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: That was a personal assessment.

Mr. Nielsen: Don't pay any attention to it; just carry on.

Mr. Whelan: I want to tell the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, that I am still talking and he can take it from there. I am still allowed to express my opinion, my suggestions, my philosophy. Anyone who wants to check can find out that I have been most successful in many of the things that I have tried to do. Persistence pays, Mr. Chairman, and even the cabinet may give up on some of these things.

Any effort to bring in cheap food to break the market should be treated the same as any effort to bring in electricians or pipefitters. I have a brother who is an electrician, and one who is a pipefitter. They would not want me to bring in 1,000 electricians tomorrow to cause chaos in the labour market. Anyway, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration would not allow it.

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So that was one of the things that I thought would be good for one part of our society and it ought to be good for all parts so far as I am concerned. We hope to provide a decent living standard for all our people so that all can share in the benefits of our society, instead of one part contributing all the time and not receiving anything in return.

An hon. Member: Don't give our gas away.

Mr. Whelan: An hon. member mentioned taxes. The interdepartmental committee is working on the subject of taxes. I just want to make one comment: I am not going to tell them what ought to be done but I do not think hon. members will be all that unhappy, either, with respect to what happens.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: We are still working on these questions. So long as you are persistent, you can be successful.

An hon. Member: If you stick around here long enough.

Mr. Whelan: Hon. members across the aisle are trying to obtain power. They may obtain it if they keep on trying.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: But all this takes a long time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan: Speaking of world trade, Mr. Chairman, all one has to do is check our record in agriculture and in other fields of trade to see how much we have done to improve our trade position. One member pointed out that we ought to be doing more with Pacific rim countries. One of the first salesmen who went to that area—

Mr. Benjamin: Was Alvin Hamilton.

Mr. Whelan: —and he was criticized by some of the very people who are saying that we should be there, was the Prime Minister himself. He went to those countries and