

*Supply—Agriculture*

grants are of course, available under ARDA or FRED programs, and I would take it, although I am no expert, under the Atlantic Development Board. I suggest to the hon. member that the initiative for such programs must come from the provinces and to the best of my knowledge no provincial initiative has been taken and brought here under the aegis of ARDA, FRED or any other joint cost sharing program which is subject to provincial initiative.

The hon. member suggested that programs similar to those put into operation in the deep south of the United States might be applicable here. I doubt very much whether the situation in the maritimes could be compared to that in the deep south many years ago. I certainly would not be one to compare the able and competent farmers of the maritime provinces with the rural poor of the deep south. I think there are grave problems to be faced, but with all respect to those good people in the United States I do not think the farmers of Nova Scotia are to be compared with the poor whites of the deep south.

I do believe, however, there could be programs of improvement, and certainly if the provincial authorities in their wisdom see fit to bring forward programs under ARDA, FRED or the Atlantic Development Board I am sure the proper authorities here would consider them very seriously indeed.

The hon. member for Moose Mountain, who also made a "non-political" political speech, was concerned about an extremely important subject—the question of the world wheat agreement. He belaboured the government and the ministers concerned for permitting the world wheat agreement to lapse, as he described it, and leave the western farmer defenceless in the absence of such an agreement. Let me point this out, Mr. Chairman. Since many hon. members on the other side have voiced the same opinion I take it from their words that they would not have permitted the world wheat agreement to lapse, had they been in office. Therefore I am bound to take it that their policy would have been the continuation of the world wheat agreement. Under that agreement, as I understand it, the price ranged between a minimum of \$1.75½ and a maximum of \$2.18 for No. 1 northern. Our government permitted the agreement to lapse in order to achieve a price range of between \$1.95 and \$2.38½. We believed the western farmer was not getting enough for his wheat. I take it that hon. members opposite believed a \$1.75½ minimum was plenty

[Mr. Greene.]

for western farmers and that a \$2.18 maximum was enough, also.

They have stated time and again that this is their view. They would have continued the world wheat agreement as it existed. Speaker after speaker has told us so. If this is not their view, if they would have abrogated the agreement as we did, let them get up and say so. Speaker after speaker has told us they disagreed with the abrogation of the world wheat agreement in order to achieve these new and higher price levels—an improvement of 20½ cents which was achieved as a result of the Kennedy round. I take it that hon. members opposite, including the hon. member for Moose Mountain disapproved of this price increase which has been achieved.

**An hon. Member:** The price has dropped 22 cents.

**Mr. Greene:** These minima and maxima which we achieved in the Kennedy round and which we are striving to implement in a new world agreement at a higher price range, instead of the lower price range with which hon. gentlemen opposite were apparently satisfied—

**An hon. Member:** We shall be here for days, now.

**Mr. Greene:** This is the reason the agreement was abrogated and if the debate is to hinge on whether or not the western farmers should be receiving prices between \$1.75½ and \$2.18 rather than new prices under a new agreement, we shall be pleased to hear what hon. members opposite have to say.

Several other points were made by various hon. members. The hon. member for Wetaskiwin dealt with dairy policy, which perhaps I might touch on for a minute. I noted he was not too anxious to talk about prices because he knows as well as I do that when we assumed office the average price for industrial milk under the very successful policies to which he referred was \$2.62 a hundredweight for 3.5 milk, whereas today, a little less than five years later, it is \$4.64.

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

**Mr. Greene:** I do not claim for a minute that in this area, as in so many others, the end has been achieved, despite the campaign by hon. members opposite who are apparently spreading the word that the Liberals are saying the farmers never had it so good.