

The Address—Mr. H. O. White

placed before us for ratification. A year ago, another meeting was held in France, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) mentioned today. It is about time we finished the conference stage, and started producing results.

I have before me the throne speeches for the past three sessions. I would advise the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Applewhaite) to study those three speeches. He seemed to get a good deal of satisfaction from the things that were forecast in the speech from the throne. If he will consider the three speeches I mentioned, he will find that paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22, and 23 of the January, 1949, speech have never been carried out. Paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the September, 1949, speech have not been touched. Those paragraphs contain the meat of the speeches from the throne at the last two sessions, so it is obvious that we have left unfinished many of the things we hoped to accomplish. What comfort there is to be gained from the speech from the throne is more than I can understand.

All three speeches from the throne mentioned the problem of exchange and monetary control. We have too much control. Neither trade nor money is allowed to flow freely. As I said before in a speech in this house, if the nations who joined the Atlantic pact can make a gun or a tank that is universal, surely they can find a trading dollar that is universal. This would enable us to trade freely with one another. How are we going to build a strong western defence unless we can trade with one another?

I have noticed that there are proposals in the throne speech concerning amendments to the Agricultural Products Act. The federation of agriculture recommended that producer boards be set up for the marketing of Canadian farm products. That was changed, however, to government boards. But now, as I understand, another proposal is made and we are going to hand it back to the producers. There is only one reason why that is going to be done. It is just like the situation where a bully takes a toy from a child; when the toy is broken he says: Here it is; see what you can do with it. That is what happened with regard to our market; it is a broken toy. So they say: We will hand it back to you; see what you can do with it. There is also provided a place to put the blame if things go wrong.

I just want to read into the record part of an article that appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of December 21, 1949:

They are now discovering that the law of supply and demand has not been repealed and that having foolishly given away the "ups" of the market, the farmers must now bear the "downs".

The bitter consequences of foolish leadership are rapidly becoming clear.

I said once before in this house, and I am going to repeat it, that it does not take a great deal of ability to sell scarce goods at a low price but it takes a considerable amount of ability to sell goods in surplus for more than they are worth; and that is what we should like to see being done now but are not likely to see.

The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McCubbin), at a meeting in London, Ontario, suggested that these farmers take back their marketing problem, and that that is where it should be. I just want to say that if that is the right policy the minister has been wrong in all the years he has been here; or if he is wrong now, he was right then. But he cannot be right both times.

Mr. Gardiner: I might surprise you.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): They should never have taken it from the farmers. I agreed with what the parliamentary assistant said in London. They should never have taken it away from the farmers. Now when the situation is tough they say: We will give it back to them. The farmers are worried about this situation, because it is a breach of promise.

Mr. Gardiner: That is the same argument the hon. member's friends put up out in Battleford.

Mr. Graydon: The minister may yet be sued for breach of promise.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): The situation is this. During the war years we were told if we took less then, when the war was over and times got tough we would have a stable and long-term market. It is not very stable and it certainly was not a long-term one. In fact, I sometimes think we have two ministers of agriculture, namely the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) and the Minister of Agriculture. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Commerce came back last May and said he had a \$25 million contract for Canadian products. I have never yet been able to find out whether or not we sold that extra \$25 million worth; and until it has been proven to me, I am going to say that it was a phony contract. When he comes back this time, he had better bring something more than a suntan with him.

During the war years when we could get a fair price for our products in other markets, embargoes were placed on many primary products so that they could not go to the best markets. When cheese and other things became scarce, they were requisitioned to fill those contracts. We did not have a chance.