

**Senator Olson:** I believe it will be paid, there is no question about that, but why come along with provision for it in Supplementary Estimates (A) when the Main Estimates were tabled only a few days ago? I think the government is trying to deceive people with this sort of tactic. If the \$700 million had been included in the Main Estimates, it would have increased government spending over the magic \$30 billion deficit figure. That is probably the reason for this amount appearing in the supplementary estimates, because there is no other explanation for it. Some argument has been advanced that the government wanted twelve twelfths of it rather than three twelfths, which would be the interim supply between now and when the Main Estimates are passed in June. But any amount of that can always be reserved, so the debate could go on.

At any rate, I think this demonstrates the point I was trying to make with the sponsor of this bill, that to adopt the legislation with these figures and say that \$3.2 billion of Canadian revenue has been paid out in assistance to farmers constitutes government by deception. That statement is simply not true. I realize that these figures were provided to the honourable senator and that all of the background detail was provided with them, and I am not blaming him for this. I am, however, blaming the government for trying to pull the wool over our eyes with that sort of statement. More important, I hope that the government will take seriously how desperate the situation is so that it will allow farmers to get on with what they have to do to survive. I hope that we will not have any more of this kind of garbage peddled around western Canada and in this chamber. I hope that the government will stick to the facts and come up with some programs that are useful and of assistance to the farmers so that they can obtain the credit they need to survive.

**Hon. Efstathios William Barootes:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** I must advise honourable senators that if Senator Barootes speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

**Senator Barootes:** Honourable senators, I am pleased that such eminent and experienced senators from the other side of the house have undertaken to speak on this debate yesterday and today. Senator Argue is the former Minister of State responsible for the Wheat Board. Senator Olson, of course, is a past Minister of Agriculture of the federal government and has had numerous posts of that nature.

**Senator Doody:** An economic czar!

**Senator Barootes:** I am particularly pleased that Senator Argue gave his unqualified blessing to the amendments in this bill.

**Senator Frith:** Did he give unqualified approval?

**Senator Barootes:** Indeed, he did. The amendments, of course, are housekeeping—they are not major changes. They will make it easier to remove some red tape and administrative entanglements so as to allow hard pressed farmers to gain access—temporarily, if you will—to cash for their stored grain

on the prairies. It is going to match the provisions of the Advance Payment for Crops Act which is working so successfully in other parts of the country.

● (1510)

However, I must take umbrage. In the figures that I supplied yesterday in answer to Senator Olson's questions for the dollar amounts that were being made available—I think the term I used was "being made available"—at no time when using the term "Canadian revenue" did I use the words "Consolidated Revenue Fund", which have been placed in my mouth by the honourable senator on the other side of the house. He should get a dictionary and find out the definition of "revenue". Webster's dictionary does not refer to "Consolidated Revenue Fund". The word "revenue" means sums of money coming into an organization. And at no time did I claim that it was anything but the people's money. That admission was made. Those dollars are contributed in some part by farmers and in a large part by Canadian governments—and when I said "Canadian governments," I also corrected that to say that it goes back to the time of Jimmy Gardiner, George Diefenbaker and, for that matter, Alvin Hamilton when we are speaking of the sums that are being made available to the hard-pressed farmers.

I take umbrage when someone suggests that I doctor figures. That is a little embarrassing. I find it a little damaging to my reputation to suggest that I would try to deceive anyone with the use of figures. I am hurt that the honourable senator on the opposite side refers to such statements as being misleading. I do not cherish his remarks that I am doctoring figures. As a matter of fact, I am grateful that no one in this house should ever accuse me of being a Doctor of Agitation.

As much as others in this chamber, I too enjoy good theatre; but I have no intention of trying to match the emotional, spectacular and regular performances of some of my senator friends on the opposite side of the house.

**Senator Argue:** I think it would be much better.

**Senator Barootes:** I find it preferable to try to deal, as I do in a modest way, in logical, reasoned statistical facts and to bring them to your attention for discussion. There is one other misconception that must be cleared up. I was hurt when I heard someone on the other side of the house say that they must educate us, on this side of the house, in the dire straits being suffered by the farmers of western Canada. Indeed, we suffer as much as anyone. No one in this house with eyes, ears, or the ability to listen, should ever make the mistake to think that the farm community of western Canada is doing well. Indeed, we are doing very poorly. And federal, provincial and other governments are doing whatever their purse will allow to assist in what is, indeed, a most dangerous and difficult time—and whether it comes in the time of a Conservative government—

**An Hon. Senator:** It always does.

**Senator Barootes:** —or a Liberal government—

**Senator Frith:** It never does.