

Supply—Agriculture

wherever possible to the end that those areas and farmers who of necessity must and can produce wheat on an economic basis will be assured of the free movement of their product to market.

There are a number of other things to which I would like to refer briefly, one of them being the unfairness of the present freight rate structure on rapeseed going into commercial channels. This is an important crop and one that has helped to reduce in a very direct way the acreage seeded to wheat. This matter has been before the responsible officials for some time now and to this date no effective or legitimate excuse has been offered for the discriminatory rate now being charged the producer of rapeseed. The Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Transport all have an interest in this matter and I urge them to get together and work out a solution that will eliminate the present excessive rate in favour of one comparable to that for flax which is handled in a comparative manner.

I believe there should be some revision concerning assistance under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and there is a need for an upward revision of the grants to farmers for the construction of dugouts and earth dam work undertaken by them under the assistance program established through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

The Prime Minister and many of those about him are dedicated to national policies not only for agriculture but for other industries and callings in this country. The principle so clearly enunciated by the Prime Minister and his colleagues during the election campaign championed the elimination of those inequities that might exist or that might come to exist between one segment of the economy and another. We who come from Saskatchewan uphold the wisdom of that approach in dealing with the problems of grain growing. Our policies, as I see them, have been designed to help the small farmer lift himself out of a depressed condition and bring himself into that group of average size farmers with better income who are able to show some progress over a period of years. I must say that our policies have been and can be of benefit to the larger operator as well. The larger operator is better able to take care of himself, a fact which is borne out by his income tax return.

In conclusion I would say I would be remiss in my duties as the hon. member for Rosthern were I to forget the people in my constituency whose prayers go with the Prime Minister in his daily task to which they attach such importance. To have been told by people,

many of them in humble circumstances, of their intense belief in his sense of mission have certainly added to the privilege of being associated with the right hon. Prime Minister in this parliament.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member for Rosthern was speaking I interrupted to ask whether I might direct a question to him. At that time he said he would be pleased to answer my question if I would wait till the conclusion of his remarks. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the hon. member for Rosthern the following question based on that part of his speech wherein he criticized the welcome that was given to the mass delegation as they arrived at the station in Ottawa. I am wondering if the hon. member is aware of the fact that the mass delegation in meeting the C.C.F. in the railway committee room not only had no criticism of the kind of welcome which we had given them but moved a unanimous vote of thanks to C.C.F. members of parliament for what they described as the tremendous welcome afforded them at the station?

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Of course, they were all members of the C.C.F.

Mr. Nasserden: May I answer the hon. gentleman's question?

The Chairman: Order. I must ask the hon. member to resume his seat when the Chairman is standing. This is not actually a question but more in the nature of a statement and must be considered as such by the Chairman. I must also inform the hon. member for Rosthern that his time has expired.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order that has been raised I consider it a very proper question. Not only is it proper but I had the permission of the hon. member to ask the question.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): It was a statement.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Argue: It is a long standing practice of this house that when an hon. member is speaking he may be interrupted by another hon. member to ask if he will yield the floor in order that a question may be put. When hon. members interrupt me I have without exception immediately yielded the floor and dealt with the questions when asked unless of course they were too numerous. The hon. member for Rosthern was very fair. He asked me to wait until he concluded his remarks. I asked him if he were aware of this fact. I believe this is an important question and that he would consider it as such.