

*Agricultural Products Board*

those statistics. The minister cannot have it both ways. He should read his own speeches to see what he says.

**Mr. Knowles:** They all go both ways.

**Mr. Wright:** I agree with the principle of setting up an agricultural products board, but unless the minister changes his position and uses this board for the purpose of maintaining reasonable and stable prices in this country, it means nothing at all. What has happened to our prices? The other day the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue) noted where the price of eggs had fallen fourteen cents per dozen in one day in one market. Less than six months ago the price of pork fell ten cents per pound.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry to have to call the hon. member to order, but in my opinion he cannot discuss floor prices under this bill.

**Mr. Wright:** I must abide by your ruling, but I contend that there is no use in setting up a board under this bill unless it is given the necessary power to establish reasonable prices for agricultural products in this country.

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I take part in a debate on agriculture, but I would like to take just a few minutes to place my views on the record. I come from a part of the country faced with problems very similar to those encountered by agriculture in western Canada. However, I must say that I am astonished at the action taken by those members of parliament who represent agricultural ridings or ridings in which agriculture is of great importance.

Every single resolution or bill in connection with agriculture, regardless of what it might be, has been responsible for touching off a full-dress debate on everything from the fertilizer and seed until the product is finally marketed. We sit here week after week and have amendments brought in; we have Mr. Speaker's rulings discussed and voted on. It would seem to me that far too much time of the house is taken in the repetition of the same questions and the same answers over and over again. In the maritime provinces there are many problems in the fishing industry similar to those encountered today in the agricultural industry.

**Mr. Gibson:** Just as important too.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** And just as important to the people there. I want to take a minute to say that I know that during the past two years hundreds of fishermen have not paid expenses. They have taken their

money and put it into equipment, and conditions have been such that they have not paid expenses. These people have never asked for any assistance. I put a question on the order paper some time ago—it can be found in *Hansard*—and hon. members will find that every single dollar paid out under the Fisheries Prices Support Act this year went to the province of Newfoundland. Not a single dollar was paid to any other province in Canada. In other words these people like to stand on their own feet as long as possible. I have every respect for the views of members representing western Canada, but I think these problems could be dealt with more expeditiously than by taking up time day after day, particularly when Christmas is near, in discussing the same thing over and over. The record in *Hansard* will prove that, so far as many of the speeches that have been made are concerned, they can be found repeated on different occasions in *Hansard* of different dates.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I was quite interested in the remarks of the hon. member who preceded me. If conditions are as serious in the maritimes as he says they are and many hundreds of fishermen have not made their expenses in the last two years, then I would say that instead of reading a lecture to those from the western provinces he should be standing up in the house and demanding some action to preserve the fishermen of the maritimes.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** On a question of privilege, I might say that I have taken up the question, but I believe there are different approaches than taking up hours and days of the time of the house. I believe there is a more efficacious way of approaching these problems.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I agree with the hon. member that the situation is serious there, and if he and the other maritime members associated with him who support the government have taken up the matter then their lack of success must be attributable to government policy.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Well, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** On a question of privilege, not a single fisherman in my riding has ever approached me to try to get my assistance. I know their problems, and I know what they are up against, but they have never asked me to approach the government.

[Mr. Wright.]