

**Mr. Greene:** I have the floor.

**Mr. Nowlan:** It is not a question as much as it is a point of privilege.

**The Chairman:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Chairman, I am interrupting the minister, since he did not accept a question, to stand on a point of privilege. When the minister continues his remarks I hope he will refer to the full content of my speech, because I made reference to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and eastern Quebec as well.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings might be a little worried, now that his leader is in the chamber, about what kind of spot he has put him in. However, in this house we make policies and programs for the whole of the country, not just one particular province.

**Mr. Crouse:** It is not as bad a spot as you put your leader in on February 19.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Chairman, whenever hon. members opposite do not have a good argument, they have louder voices than anybody else. If volume were good policy they would still have been in office. There is no question of that, because volume they have.

**Mr. Flemming:** We will be.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Chairman, if we can get back to the debate for a moment, the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings complained that the income of farmers in the province of Nova Scotia had decreased 30 per cent during the past years. The gross income of farmers in Canada from 1962 to 1966 actually increased from \$3.1 billion to \$4.2 billion. This represents an increase of \$1.1 billion.

Many hon. members opposite have asked to have income defined in terms of net income rather than gross income, so I should now like to put on record the net income of farmers across Canada as a whole. In 1962 the net income of Canadian farmers was \$1,492 million. In 1963 it was \$1,495 million, in 1964 \$1,281 million, in 1965 \$1,565 million, and in 1966 \$1,978 million. These figures represent net income after expenses. As I said last night, Mr. Chairman, these figures, which were compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, clearly indicate that in the last three years the net income of farmers in Canada as a whole has increased by some 33½ per cent.

### *Supply—Agriculture*

In view of this increase, Mr. Chairman, if the income of farmers in the province of Nova Scotia has decreased by 30 per cent, as the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings alleges, I suggest he had better complain to the provincial government, as apparently things are much worse in Nova Scotia than in other parts of the country. Since his present leader was premier of that province during this period, he may be able to make his complaint to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Starr:** I wonder whether the minister would permit a question based on what he has just said?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Chairman, I think I would prefer to finish my remarks. Many questions have yet to be answered.

**Mr. Starr:** The question is a very simple one and pertains to the statistics the minister has just put on the record. I wonder whether he would give way and answer a question?

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Greene:** The hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings also complained that farms in Nova Scotia are far smaller than in other parts of Canada. I think he said they averaged in size only 40 acres. The average size of a farm in Canada as a whole in 1961 was 359 acres. By 1966 it had risen to 404 acres.

So again, Mr. Chairman, apparently the situation in Nova Scotia is far worse than it is elsewhere. I am sure all of us sympathize very much with the farmers of Nova Scotia in this connection. If the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings is as concerned as he pretends to be in this chamber, then I am sure he will take up the specific and special problems that exist in that province with the provincial government of Nova Scotia. My only regret is that during his leader's term of office agricultural solutions were apparently not so easy to find as Nova Scotians who come to the federal house appear to think.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Again, the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings suggested there should be greater contribution of capital grants to agriculture in the provinces. I know this is one of the requests which the provincial Federation of Agriculture has made, I believe to the provincial governments, although I have also met some of them in this regard when they attended here to meet me, or when I met some of them in their own province. Capital