

Supply—Agriculture

them at the station and it looked like a C.C.F. delegation all the way. Those farmers from western Canada did not want publicity like that. The hon. member for Assiniboia told us how they were pleased about this reception in the committee room. I met a great number of the delegates, and I am telling you, sir, that they were ashamed of that performance at the station, every one of them.

This is some of the publicity. This is what took place. This is from Victor Mackie, the Ottawa correspondent for the *Winnipeg Free Press*. He had this to say:

A C.C.F.-hired brass band played Happy Days Are Here Again.

As delegates began to enter the station from the first train. C.C.F. members of parliament also outjockeyed the cabinet ministers for positions in what amounted to an informal receiving line. C.C.F. house leader Hazen Argue commented to a reporter.

"It's all good clean fun."

Mr. Chairman, that march was not fun. That march was business. Those farmers from western Canada had come down to Ottawa to present to parliament their problems. They were not down for fun but on business. I had a very good meeting with all my delegates. But what happened when they got home? You can see what happened from the papers. Such paper reports as that we need to educate the western members; that eastern members are all right; but I would like to put on record for my own constituency, with your permission, a letter from the Vermilion Board of Trade which says:

Dear Mr. Smallwood:

Mr. Karl Marklund, one of the farmer delegates from this district who visited Ottawa recently, addressed our board of trade at its meeting on the 25th of March and gave a very interesting account of the reception the delegates received at Ottawa.

Mr. Marklund was particularly warm in his praise of the cordial reception you gave to the members of the delegation from this district and others from the west. He stated you "went all out" to assist them to meet various members of the government and they felt you were a good man for the west.

At the conclusion of Mr. Marklund's remarks our board passed a resolution of appreciation to you, which I hereby convey in this letter.

From another part of my constituency, the F.U.A. wrote me this letter:

Dear Mr. Smallwood:

I wish to inform you of a motion passed at our last F.U.A. meeting.... The motion expressed our appreciation for your continued efforts to put forward legislation beneficial to "western agriculture".

Yours truly,

Mrs. George N. Osness,
Secretary.

That is what our farmers in Alberta think of the members down here, yet we have to read all this rubbish which appears in the press because the press are misinformed.

[Mr. Smallwood.]

Mr. Chairman, I did miss one point I wanted to make. The C.C.F. agree with everything in the brief. We agree with deficiency payments and the brief, and I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to go back to what the C.C.F. member from Port Arthur said. As I say, we agree with everything in this brief. We agree; oh, yes, we agree with everything in the brief. The hon. member for Rosthern who recently participated in this debate referred to the payment of \$4,500. But let us examine what was said by the hon. member for Port Arthur as reported at page 2732 of *Hansard* of April 15, 1959:

As I understand it, we supported the position taken in the brief, which would be a maximum of \$1,500.

The hon. member is apparently under the impression that there is a maximum payment of \$1,500. But that was for one year and must be multiplied by three which gives a total of \$4,500. That illustrates the kind of thinking of which C.C.F. members are guilty of.

I have in my hand a publication called *The Western Producer*. In my opinion it would be more appropriately entitled, "The Wesson Producer". It is interesting to note that this publication suffered a deficit last year of nearly \$160,000. The Saskatchewan wheat pool owns it and this illustrates how they run their business. I am prepared to make another prediction. If hon. gentlemen pick up a copy of this publication next week they will see that it contains an editorial about me.

I am down here working for the family farmer. I am a grain farmer and a mixed farmer. I am in Ottawa to work for the farmer of Canada and of the west.

I should now like to turn to a problem of great concern to the farmer of western Canada. The government expended \$139 million on agriculture last year putting it in the hands of western farmers but we still find ourselves caught in a cost price squeeze. Let me place some comparative figures on the record. A combine which cost \$5,600 in 1953 cost \$9,000 in 1958. An Ontario farmer friend of mine bought a manure spreader for \$350 in 1953 and in 1958 the same unit cost \$700. A tractor which cost \$4,600 in 1953, cost \$6,500 in 1958. Freight charges on a tractor in 1948 were \$96.47, in 1957 \$201.78 and in 1959, \$235.41. These examples serve to illustrate the difficulty the farmer experiences in equipping himself for his operation and it must be observed that throughout the period to which I referred during which prices continued to climb, the farmer's income constantly decreased.