

to tell me how anyone can live in Ottawa for six months of the year and make anything on \$2,857, which is what I have left of my indemnity after the income tax is deducted. It is impossible for a member of parliament to make anything out of his indemnity.

The board to be set up under this bill is to consist of three members, one of whom is to be the permanent chairman. If the right kind of board is set up I believe it can do a great deal of good. Then there is to be an advisory committee of twelve, and in the appointment of these men the minister will have an opportunity to put the right men in the right place. If that is done I have no doubt at all that this legislation will be of great benefit to the country. On the other hand if the wrong men are selected, this legislation will fall short, as other legislation designed to increase the income of the farmer has come to grief.

I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Cleaver) a short time ago. This was the first time I ever heard him make a speech in which I thought he really talked sense. As hon. members know, he is one of the lawyer members of this parliament, and he made that speech only because we are on the eve of an election and he realizes that his only possible chance of coming back is to secure the vote of the farmers. I am in a different position myself, since I happen to be a farmer. However, I agree with many of his statements, and I hope they did not fall upon deaf ears.

As the hon. member said, the farms of this country are being depleted because of the lack of labour. That is very true. I can remember very well, years ago, when my grandfather would take the scythe and go out to crop off the weeds that grew up in fence corners and along the fence bottoms. We do not have time to do that now, and that is why when you drive through the country you see a great many farms polluted with weeds. A farmer may be alone on his land, with a dozen cows to look after and his ordinary chores to do. He cannot get his nose off the grindstone long enough to do these odd jobs, and he has not enough money for a hired man. As a result these weeds are allowed to grow unchecked, and everyone knows that when a farm is allowed to go to weeds it is only a very short time until it is not productive at all.

In my opinion this bill, when it becomes operative, will help farmers to obtain the things they need and should have had long ago. Floor prices should have been established when ceiling prices were imposed. I contend that during the period on which the ceiling prices were based, the prices of farm commodi-

ties were not high enough. That is one reason why it is more than ever necessary to have floor prices during the transition period. Ceiling prices have not been high enough, but if we are protected by floor prices following the war the agricultural situation may be stabilized.

Everyone says we are entering a new world. Whether we like it or not the boys who are coming on are not going to farm as we did. They are bound to farm with machines, and operate their farms differently from the way we operated ours. For that reason they are not going to be content with the hours we have been compelled to put in from year to year. Their remuneration may be greater, because they intend to farm by machinery. Unless they are paid for the labour they put in, we shall not have any farmers. We might as well make up our minds that farm prices must be stabilized to the point where they will induce the next generation to stick to the farms. Otherwise this country will go down, down, down.

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I intend to deal with one or two matters in connection with this bill. One observation I would make at the beginning is that it is passing strange that legislation as important as this should have been brought down so late in the session. When one considers that this bill will empower a board to control \$200,000,000, that it is introduced on a Saturday in the dying days of the session when by reason of long hours of sitting during the week members are necessarily tired out and unable to give the bill as much attention as it should receive, it seems only right that protests should be made against this sort of procedure.

The hon. member who preceded me in the debate referred to the fact that the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Cleaver), a lawyer, had spoken in regard to this matter. Well, I must say that if it were not for the lawyers in the house this afternoon—because they are very much in the majority, when compared with those who follow farming as an occupation—this bill could not possibly be considered in detail.

Mr. MacNICOL: There would not be a quorum.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am in accord with the principle of setting up any scheme whereby, when the war is over, reasonable prices may be assured to farmers. All hon. members realize that in the last two or three years resolutions have been passed calling upon the government to do something in this regard. I