

We all realize that in our confederation which was created a little over 100 years ago there are still some problems. The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency has been in existence a little over one year and one might expect that there would still be problems. It is for this reason that I am pleased to note there will be public hearings by a parliamentary committee in order to determine the real facts in respect of what CEMA has been attempting, along with the real facts about what it and others have done.

● (1620)

Yesterday the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) referred to me as a shooting star. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition referred to as a model of the early experimental space ship called "Stasis," a Greek word meaning one who stands still. It was a rocket space ship which did not go anywhere. This Minister of Agriculture wishes to make clear from the start several points about his own personal life, because many things have been stated recently in the press. I can understand the feeling of members of the press about this character because many of them blame him for proving them so wrong on July 8.

It has been stated that I am a corporate farmer. I am not. I have only 216 acres of mortgaged land, with buildings which need paint. Some people have said that I am a chicken farmer. I have never in my life raised a chicken on my farm. They say I am a beef farmer. I am not a beef farmer. Never in 20 years have I raised beef cattle. They say I am a rich man. I want to say I have a richness that cannot be deposited in the bank: the bank will not accept it as collateral. It is a richness which I know is enjoyed by some other members of this House. It is the richness of the knowledge of having worked for people in an elected position. I am 50 years of age, but I have worked in this way for 29 years. This has included work in respect of co-ops, credit unions, farm organizations, municipal bodies, and so on. I have enjoyed every bit of it. I have the richness of knowing that I have done and can do something for my fellow man. This is a richness that no one can take away from me.

Mr. Alexander: This sounds like your maiden speech.

Mr. Whelan: I just want to put the facts straight, since certain articles have been written about me. I want to make clear that I have been on my own since I was six years of age. I was one of nine children, raised on the great sum of \$45 a month called mother's allowance, during the dirty thirties when there was no medicare or anything of that nature. So when anyone says—and some have been guilty of this—that this farmer, this member of parliament, this minister, does not know what hard times are, he is not being factual. Sometimes I find it difficult to understand what people write about the actions of the government and the actions of this speaker. This reminds me of an editorial which appeared in the *Financial Times* of August 5. The article contained these words:

It is time that federal farm policy took account of the fact that this is one of the most urbanized countries in the world. At the last census, 76 out of every 100 Canadians lived in cities and the farm population had dropped to 6.6 per cent from 9.5 per cent five years earlier.

If that were said about some other minority group in Canada, or some racial group, we would have every civil

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liberties group fighting for them. I take it from that article that people who produce the very fruit of life are nothing more than mere peasants—but not a sound is made. I am placing this on the record because these are the things that have been said. Everyone realizes that what I am saying is true. People would not dare say these things about some other minority group.

We hear talk about the waste of food. This was mentioned by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan). I do not think any human wishes to see food wasted because this is deplorable whether it be by flood, by hail, by drought, by disease, by snow or by man. Farmers are food producers and creators of things, and they find this deplorable. I wish to make sure it is fully understood that I feel it is just as deplorable to throw away millions of tons of food every year in Canada.

In the city of Toronto there is a train that hauls away the food every so many days. It is taken to the garbage dump. In one week the city of Toronto throws away more food than has been thrown away in the form of eggs in a year. They feel they have the right to throw it away. A garbageman came to my office and said that he had something in common with me. He told me that I produce the food and haul it to the people, and he hauls it away from the people to the garbage dump.

It is estimated that the food that is thrown away in some of our large metropolitan areas—any of the large cities of our nation—would feed a city of the same population in the have-not world. Each day it is thrown away—and people could live on that little food in some cities. Some of us who have visited other countries in the world such as India and South America surely realize that what I say is true. I visited Lima, Peru in South America, several years ago: there were 500,000 people outside that city with no social services; they had nothing going for them. The companies which owned the fishmeal plants in that area were exporting the fishmeal and depositing the money at that time either in the United States, in Geneva or in some other country, rather than in Peru. The President of Peru made a strong appeal that we assist him in finding protein for his people.

We would find the same type of situation in India or in some other countries. Some people try to create the impression that the Minister of Agriculture, the farm population or the egg producers are happy that food has gone to waste. I suggest it is wrong to attempt to create such an impression. While we are talking about protein, and so on, I may say that according to the letters I receive and the things people say, they would seem to be under a misapprehension about what can be done with a certain quantity of eggs or with any product in the world in the way of food aid. Let us take dry whole eggs. An amount of \$1 million will buy enough for a month for 127,000 children. Let us take wheat. An amount of \$1 million will buy enough protein for 518,000 children for a month.

In respect of skim milk powder, \$1 million will buy enough for nearly 300,000 children for a month. It is not as easy a matter as some people try to suggest when they say that this product could be put into food aid. The people who supply food aid buy it where their dollar will go the furthest. Although egg powder has a very high protein content, it is one of the most expensive types of product