

Supply—Agriculture

am wrong, the control of the Fairford river is being undertaken by his department as an entirely separate project from the proposed Red river flood control which would come under different legislation and presumably under another department. I might say that I have the greatest possible sympathy for this project and I would not want to be misunderstood at all in that regard. I lived within ten miles of lake Manitoba for a very large part of my life, the most impressionable part of it, and it was one of the saddest things to see the lakeside meadows inundated with water year after year and to see, as I saw several years ago, farmers watching their holdings vanish because of the water.

I know this is a very difficult problem. There is a danger that by running down the level in flooded areas of lake Manitoba you may create a problem on lake Winnipeg. I know it has not been easy to work out a scheme that we can be sure will be satisfactory. I always like to give credit for encouraging things when they do happen. I think it is encouraging that a start is being made on this problem and I think there are many people who would like a progress report under the appropriate item.

Mr. Regier: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would deem it advisable to reply with respect to why farmers cannot have parity of income with respect to Canadian agricultural products consumed within Canada and why they cannot have deficiency payments on exported agricultural products adequate enough to bring prices into line so that the farmers will have parity of income with all other workers in Canada?

I should like to ask the minister one other question. Since the minister comes from a wheat growing area of Canada, namely, Qu'Appelle-Wolseley, I should like to ask him why it was deemed advisable to appoint a parliamentary secretary who comes from the riding of Provencher in Manitoba which I understand is also largely a wheat growing area. I cannot ask the minister about his appointment but why were all the other types of agricultural production ignored in the appointment of a parliamentary secretary? Why was a balance not obtained within the department? Why was an onion farmer from Ontario, a tomato grower from the interior of British Columbia, a dairy farmer from Quebec or even a florist from Nova Scotia not appointed to this office? Why did the government decide that the minister and the parliamentary secretary should represent in the main the wheat farmers of our nation?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McGee): Shall item No. 1 carry?

Mr. Regier: No. I think the minister would like to tell us why Canadian farmers are not entitled to parity of income.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Chairman, one reason why I was reluctant to speak was the fact that any reasonably intelligent person listening to the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam would say that the kindest thing that could be said to the hon. member is that he should have kept quiet because never have we heard such a hodgepodge of contrary views and confused economics in the history of this chamber. I have always felt that those responsible for agriculture have the responsibility of letting the people know some of the facts concerning their industry.

Now, I am not going to deal with all the points raised by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam because, quite frankly and honestly, I wish the hon. member would read his speech and think about it a little instead of talking. I am sure he will not be proud of that speech when he reads it.

Mr. Regier: I think the farmers will read it.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): During the hon. member's speech, Mr. Chairman, he not only attacked the wheat farmer but he attacked the intelligence of farm organizations. He came out against the importation of food supplies into Canada. He came out for producing surpluses beyond our own needs. He came out for controls and he came out against controls. If the hon. member will just read that speech over it will save me the unhappy task of exposing the depths of the ignorance that was expressed.

I have no right to say anything about why my parliamentary secretary was appointed. Once again, I would ask the hon. member to get out of these city districts he represents and learn something about the geography of Canada.

Mr. Regier: I was born in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes, I know, but after your speech we are not proud of it.

Mr. Regier: I am very proud of it.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The hon. member should learn something about the constituency which the hon. member for Provencher represents. He will find onion growers there, sugar beet growers, cattlemen, dairymen, fur farmers, almost every type of farming except wheat farming. I mention that only in passing. I just point out that if it is not apparent to the hon. member it must be apparent to all the rest of us, that it is only kindness on my part that keeps me in my seat.

Item agreed to.