

Supply—Agriculture

realized what is going on instead of listening to the bunch of rubbish put out by the C.C.F. along the lines of what we hear every day.

The C.C.F. group supports deficiency payments. They are in favour of everything. If we were to give agriculture \$5,000, they would give \$10,000. If we were to give \$5 million, they would give \$25 million. They are irresponsible. They have no responsibility to Canada, and they never will have. It is time they realized this themselves. The hon. member for Bow River suggested that the C.C.F. and the C.L.C. would be married off. That would be a sad thing to take place, because if it did it would be too bad for the farmers of western Canada; they would be playing the role of the unwilling bride in that marriage.

Now with regard to deficiency payments. They say we are against it. I am not against deficiency payments. Nobody would be better off than myself because I would get a cheque for \$4,500 and my neighbour probably one for \$500 or \$600. That would be a great sin, would it not? We got last year \$41 million to take out west and if we divided it up like a deficiency payment, how much would the small farmer get? Twenty-five per cent of the producers would get 75 per cent of the money. Then they brought down a brief and they want us to go back to 1955, 1956, 1957. Is that the responsibility of this government when the Liberals were in power and the C.C.F. from the western provinces were down here? It is not our responsibility to rectify those mistakes made by the representatives of the people of western Canada in those years.

Then there was talk of betrayal, that we betrayed western Canada. I will tell you who betrayed western Canada. It was Jack Wesson and the Saskatchewan wheat pool. In 1946, Wesson and the Saskatchewan wheat pool put pressure on the government to sign the British wheat agreement. The C.C.F. and the worthy member for Assiniboia were in favour of signing that agreement. When my colleague, the minister of northern affairs, accused them of this the other day, finally the member for Assiniboia said that was not true. Let us go back to the 1946 *Hansard* when they were discussing the British wheat agreement, and we see the hon. member for Assiniboia speaking, as reported on page 4839 of *Hansard* of August 15, 1946. He said:

I agree with the leader of this group (Mr. Coldwell) who stated that we in this party welcome the agreement.

Then we turn over the page and see the member for Assiniboia again speaking. He said as reported on page 4841:

I welcome the wheat agreement.

That wheat agreement cost the western farmers over \$600 million, and now they want this government to give it all back in one year.

We had the march on Ottawa which was carried out very respectably. Why did they not march in 1955 or 1956? It was a different government then and there were a lot of C.C.F. members from Saskatchewan who were interested. No, they said they would wait. Then this year they decided to come down here. They said, "This Diefenbaker government is bringing in a lot of legislation and things will look tough for us, so let's get down there." We are supposed to believe that every member of that delegation was in agreement with deficiency payments. They were not. They came to present to the government and the people of this country the troubles of the farmers of western Canada, and a good 50 per cent of them were satisfied with the acreage payments if only we would pay just a little more. The payment last year was rather small. I had over 21 delegates from my constituency, and out of those 21 there was only one delegate who demanded deficiency payments. But he left, and he left in good spirits and in agreement with me. The rest of my delegates said that they were fairly well satisfied with what we were doing but they were still in trouble. I know they are in trouble in the west, because I am a farmer. They do not need to tell me that. I know we are in trouble because I am a farmer myself.

Then what happened? The march ended in Ottawa; they got off at the station and the member for Rosthern mentioned the greeting they had. Well, Mr. Chairman, my good friend the other night mentioned that there was an eight-ring circus down there. If you, sir, had been down at the station that morning you would have seen it in full force. The Minister of Agriculture was there; the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources was there; the Minister of Trade and Commerce was there; and a lot of western members were there. But we were standing back in the station not to embarrass these farmers coming to Ottawa. However, this eight-ring circus was going on. The member for Assiniboia was down by the door; the fat man was there, the thin man was there and they were carrying big C.C.F. signs. I watched those farmers come from the station and a lot of them dropped their heads to get by the ring leader at the door because they were ashamed of any political affiliation with their march on Ottawa. They did not want that. Then we got reports in the newspapers next day about how the C.C.F. met