

Supply—Agriculture

hon. member who was speaking a moment ago about the evils of vertical integration should not have told us what he thinks a 5,000 acre wheat farm is. Is that not vertical integration?

Another point is that the farm union in Alberta supported this delegation as a method of demonstrating farm unity, and I commend the union for it; but they were sold a bill of goods. They were told by the Saskatchewan delegation, "If you do not support us we will go into livestock, and then look out". That is the only point they made, and it is a foolish argument, one that does not hold water.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Did the hon. member read the brief presented by the western delegation to Ottawa and, if so, does he deny the facts they presented and the conditions on the prairies as outlined in the brief which the delegation presented?

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): As I said initially, we agree on the conditions which are prevalent in western agriculture, but they affect most of all the grain growers, particularly the small grain growers who are not going to get any benefit from the measures suggested in the brief. These are the people who are in trouble, but the brief is not going to help them. The solutions proposed are not going to be of any assistance to them. As I said before, there is no point in giving a Buick to someone who already drives a Cadillac, and that is exactly what the hon. member for Timiskaming is suggesting when he says we should pay \$4,500 each to the biggest farmers in western Canada.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I can only assume from the very generous manner in which I am received as I rise to speak on these estimates that the committee generally will expect from me a contribution to this very important subject which concerns all the people of Canada.

After listening to the observations which have just been made I should like to give some political advice to the hon. member, if he would take it from one who has had a fairly long experience in this house. He said that when he went home he found that his constituents without exception fully supported the attitude of the present administration with regard to deficiency payments.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Ninety-five per cent.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, he said 95 per cent. I would suggest to him that as a political novice he ought not to use percentages in that particular context, because it must be apparent that the farmers of western Canada are dissatisfied not to the extent of

5 per cent but, in so far as one can judge from the orderly and very significant delegation that came to Ottawa from western Canada, the farmers generally in western Canada are totally dissatisfied with the policies of this government, policies that arise out of assurances given by this administration in the course of two election campaigns.

There is no doubt that the government through the Prime Minister in particular, through the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and through the Minister of Agriculture did give the farmers of western Canada and farmers throughout Canada generally the impression that if they were entrusted with the responsibility of governing this country the farmers would receive from this government a better deal either through parity prices or deficiency payments. No form of dialectics the Minister of Agriculture may use will destroy the impression these hon. gentlemen created in the country: "Entrust us with the responsibility of office and we will provide parity prices"—represented by various amendments introduced in this house by the present Prime Minister—"and we will provide deficiency payments". These characterize the observations made by hon. gentlemen opposite in the course of two election campaigns.

The recent delegation of farmers from western Canada which descended on Ottawa was one of the finest delegations that has ever come here. It was both orderly and constructive. If there was a reason for these farmers coming here it was because this government through its spokesmen gave the impression in two general election campaigns that this government was going to embark on a policy that would result in a better deal for the farmers. The delegation asked the government to pursue that policy.

When my hon. friend says that he found satisfaction in his constituency I suggest to him that he had better examine all parts of his constituency, as other hon. members from western Canada should, with a view to ascertaining whether or not the optimistic interpretation he has just given is in conformity with the facts. I was in western Canada quite recently, too, and I certainly did not find any indication of satisfaction such as the friendly and intelligent but misguided hon. member who has just spoken has described.

This government did not only promise western farmers deficiency payments; it promised the farmers of Canada generally that there would be a price support program the like of which Canadian farmers had never received, guaranteeing to those engaged in agriculture a basic and satisfactory income.