

Inquiries of the Ministry

there is a series of programs available this year which in the aggregate exceed anything that has hitherto been available to the grain producers of western Canada. No. 1: there is \$127 million worth of crop insurance in force in the three prairie provinces this year, in connection with which the federal government has paid 25 per cent of the premium plus 50 per cent of the administrative cost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: Second, on the basis of the estimates that we now have, there will be a minimum of \$14 million paid out in P.F.A.A. payments.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Olson: It is impossible to give an estimate of the maximum until harvesting operations are completed this fall. Third, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has risen on a point of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this. Isn't this a speech which might well have been made on the motion to adjourn the house, or when we are on a piece of farm legislation? I submit that it should not be made in the question period.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, speaking first on the point of order, all these programs are well known to hon. members—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the minister should not speak on the point of order but should perhaps complete his answer.

Mr. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Third, this government has introduced—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that he is now giving a complete review of government action over a period of time. I will allow the hon. member for Lisgar to ask his question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I ask a supplementary question because I have not received any answer to the original question. Would the minister, instead of giving voluminous approbation to the crop insurance program which my government brought in advise whether this government is going to give the

[Mr. Olson.]

small farmers the acreage payment. Surely the minister can answer that question.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of being responsible is to answer, and that is what I want to do. I want to tell the right hon. gentleman that all the programs we have add up to substantially more than acreage payments to the—

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There has been a ruling on the point of order. The ruling was that there was not one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister not agree that all he is doing is repeating the legislation that was brought in by the former government?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker. The advance payments, that we would like to bring in as soon as the opposition will let us pass the legislation, is a substantial improvement over previous legislation in this respect.

Mr. Ricard: Bring it in.

Mr. Schreyer: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Selkirk on a supplementary question.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): My supplementary question is to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister say whether in addition to the existing program to which he referred, any extraordinary, special programs are to be undertaken to deal with this extraordinary situation on the prairies?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, my department and the other departments concerned are always considering extraordinary programs to meet extraordinary situations. But the hon. gentleman knows that this situation cannot be assessed until the harvesting season is completed, and there are many areas in western Canada where harvesting operations are now under way.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to