

*Supply—Agriculture*

seriously because he said the same things about the Liberals as he is endeavouring to say about us today.

That brings me to the next point in reference to his attack on the Minister of Agriculture. I have said this before and I will say it again today. The Liberal party know that it has been an old trick of the trade that, if they can destroy our political leader, they may be able to destroy the Conservative party temporarily, and they are busy at work in that regard now. However, they have taken on a new campaign. They have new motives. They know that if they can destroy Alvin Hamilton, who has done more for the farmers of western Canada than any other minister since confederation, they might be able to uproot some of the Tory members of parliament who now enjoy his confidence.

They have made an attack on the minister. Why have they made an attack on him? The kind of Minister of Agriculture that we have is a man who goes out and listens to the farmers' problems, makes suggestions, talks over the problems, takes their suggestions from the farm organizations, the wheat pools and other organizations to which they belong and from the grain trade generally, hammers out these suggestions, takes a look at them and in many cases implements them. I know that I can speak for the united farmers of Alberta. When I was campaigning they handed me the submissions they had made over the last five years. Many of those submissions contained in that particular brief of theirs have been implemented by this government. I have not the time in which to go into them now because I have many other things to say. However, the fact is that it is proof that the minister is heeding what the farmers have to suggest and is implementing their suggestions where it is politically and financially possible.

I am going to suggest this: I am going to suggest they are trying to make political hay out of the speech the minister made in Regina. I have a copy here and I am going to refer to it in a moment. But the most interesting thing is that they are off tune today because when I lived in Saskatchewan I always believed the *Leader-Post* was not too unkind to the Liberals. I have in my hand an editorial which appeared in the *Leader-Post* of November 16, 1962. I trust the hon. member for Assiniboia and others have read it. This is what they had to say. This is in their editorial and they speak for one of the great wheat belts of the prairies, as Regina is on that flat plain which really can produce wheat. This is what they had to say:

Mr. Hamilton's proposals are worthy of a better fate than precipitate condemnation by self-seeking

[Mr. Woolliams.]

politicians. They are entitled to a careful examination, and to subsequent implementation if they hold out a prospect of being helpful in extending the markets for prairie wheat.

That is what the *Leader-Post* had to say about that matter. What did the *Globe and Mail* have to say? I have taken it from one newspaper of one colour. It may be suggested that this newspaper is a little bit friendly to another political party; but at least these are two papers, one in the west and one in the east. This is just a short editorial. It is so cute that I wish to read it all. It is dated November 27, 1962, and is headed, "Who is Ridiculous?" It reads as follows:

Opposition leader Lester Pearson last week demonstrated an astounding capacity for changing his mind.

I would not suggest that statement would apply to the hon. member for Assiniboia.

He announced that a proposal made by Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton that western grain growers form a co-operative sales organization as an agent of the Canadian wheat board—a proposal which he had earlier described as ridiculous—was perhaps not so ridiculous after all. But he still found ridiculous Mr. Hamilton's second suggestion, that the grain growers create a contributory fund to guard against possible defaults in credit sales abroad.

Mr. Pearson's problem is that he is so anxious to oppose any and all government proposals that he damns them before he clearly understands them. This can lead, as it did in this instance, to a necessity to perform humiliating flip-flops. Mr. Pearson comes out of this episode looking far more ridiculous than anything suggested by Mr. Hamilton.

There we have the records of the two newspapers. I say this, Mr. Chairman, that when you look at the speech of the Minister of Agriculture, you find that he went there to discuss problems of grain with one of the largest organizations in western Canada, and he threw out some suggestions. One suggestion no doubt was that they build up a fund, in addition to the credits that have been given by this government so that we could sell wheat to China, so that we could go out and promote the sale of grain. What is wrong with that?

We only have to recall that a few years ago, Mr. Chairman, when I first came into this house there were 700 million bushels of wheat piled up on the farms in western Canada in old houses, in barns and in makeshift bins. The hon. member for Assiniboia speaks in glowing terms of the late C. D. Howe. I am not criticizing him or his policy. He talked at that time of the international wheat agreement, but I thought it was the quibbling over five cents a bushel that took us out of that agreement for a number of years and cost the wheat farmers a lot of money.

I come back to the point that the suggestion was one for promoting sales. Of course, the