

Farm Machinery

whether or not they are out of order. I suggest he be allowed to continue at least for the time being.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the thin skin of the hon. member for York-Scarborough, who has travelled as much as he has. I should have thought by this time he would have developed a thicker skin, particularly in view of some of the places he has visited. I should like to thank the hon. member for Timiskaming for his support.

I should like to continue reading from this editorial which refers to the leadership given by the Minister of Agriculture. It states:

This is authoritative; it is a sober, objective evaluation of a fledgling politician. It is made, and signed, by none other than the same Mr. Hays. It is part of an 8-page "news release" from Canada's Minister of Agriculture. It is at once an insult to that office and to the farmers of Canada who look to the minister for leadership.

We quote further from the above document, so inaccurately entitled a news release. "Following his election to the House of Commons and appointment as Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hays devoted his energy initially to mastering the intricacies of his vast department and becoming familiar with the ways of the Commons. His policy of thought before action led some of his critics initially to underestimate his capacity to handle his new career."

Initially Mr. Hay's most frequent action was to put his foot in his mouth. Now through issuing propaganda missives so laudatory to himself, he is evidently trying to cram the other foot in too.

A great parliamentarian once observed, "A man does not increase his stature by standing on his dignity." Neither does he increase his standing in the public eye by mistaking propaganda for information.

The Minister of Agriculture holds his high office both by virtue of election to parliament and by appointment to cabinet. He is in a position of trust and of power. His job is an arduous one demanding of time and talent. If Mr. Hays wishes to devote his energies and those of his department to extolling his own alleged virtues, farmers will have to look elsewhere for leadership.

Mr. Speaker, that is what this well known and respected farm magazine has to say about the leadership we have received from the Minister of Agriculture.

Some hon. members have expressed their fears and doubts in respect of this bill. Some of us have been concerned that any benefits to be derived from it will go to persons other than farmers. The minister has optimistically assured us that this proposed measure will be of benefit to farmers. At one time during the debate he rose in his place and said he did not want to embarrass the hon. member for Acadia, but that he thought all his questions would be answered. The minister exudes optimism. He even spoke of his own optimism

in that famous Chicago farmers club speech when he said:

To be the Minister of Agriculture, to be the mayor of a city, to be the auctioneer of a good sale, or of a poor sale, you have to be a bit of an optimist and to show you how optimistic I am about the problems of the farmers and that sort of thing I'd like to tell you a story about an uncle of mine.

I am not going to tell you that story about his uncle.

Mr. Moreau: Mr. Speaker, I should like to hear your decision as to whether the remarks of the hon. member for Acadia are pertinent to the amendment now before the house. In my submission they are not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would think that the point now made by the hon. member is well taken. I feel the hon. member for Acadia should restrict himself to the principle of the bill now before us. I know he perhaps feels he should reply to some of the statements made by the minister in his speech; but on the other hand—and I was in the chair last night—I feel that the minister was, generally speaking, relevant to the bill before the house.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Therefore I would invite the hon. member for Acadia to respect the rules and limit his speech to the principle of the bill before the house.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, surely it is not agreeable to the house to have rules for ministers and different rules for members elsewhere in the house. I was here last night when the minister was speaking, and he made a political attack on several members on this side of the house. He made accusations against them that had no relation to the bill whatsoever. Surely it is open to us on this side to reply to those statements of the minister. We cannot have two sets of rules, one applicable to ministers and one to others.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. There is, of course, only one set of rules, and the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre will notice that I recognized the right of the hon. member to reply to statements made by another hon. member on the other side of the house. That is why I feel the Chair has been lenient to this point in not interfering with the hon. member although to some extent, and I am sure all hon. members will agree, he was not strictly relevant to the principle of the bill before the house.