

*The Address—Mr. Mandziuk*

The Liberals, Mr. Pearson promised, "can do something about that when we are in office and we will."

The charge made was not substantiated. Then when these farmers came in hundreds to hear him, and there was a good crowd, what did he say about agriculture? According to the *Winnipeg Tribune* of October 17, he said this:

He said the Liberals don't have an answer to all agricultural problems, but would come up with a sound, stable program to increase farm income.

What he is saying is, "Oh, re-elect us, brothers, and we will do everything for you". They have said that previously and they are saying it again. What is the agriculture policy of the Liberal party? Their policy is that they will just come up with something. I think the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Muir) was quite right in what he said when he was speaking in the debate on acreage payments. Those acreage payments received a really rough going over in this House of Commons, as everyone knows. The hon. member for Lisgar very mildly and, I would say, diplomatically—he did not mean to insult hon. members or the Leader of the Opposition or anything like that—made reference to the fact that the Hon. L. B. Pearson did not touch on agriculture in his key note address in the debate on the speech from the throne. He said that the only conclusion we can draw is that he and his party have no ideas about agriculture.

I think the hon. member for Lisgar was right. The hon. member was born and raised on a farm, is still one of our outstanding farmers and was elected by farmers. I will stake his judgment any time against the judgment of any agriculture expert sitting on opposite benches or in offices at 251 Cooper St., Ottawa.

You know what followed, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) gave us a preview of what his leader would say. His leader followed him on the succeeding Monday. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the preview was longer and more interesting than was the main feature produced by the Leader of the Opposition. I therefore still think that the hon. member for Lisgar was right. They are still floundering around and do not know what their agricultural policy is. I can tell you what it is, Mr. Speaker. Repeal the stabilization act, cash advances, national crop insurance, acreage payments, the farm credit act, the amendment to the P.F.A.A. and you have the Liberal agriculture policy.

I know that my time will not permit me to quote from all the briefs presented to us by various farm organizations. However, I think I shall have time to quote one. This brief was presented by members of district No. 3 of the Manitoba farmers union which

covers the constituency of Marquette. This brief was presented to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) and me in Russell, Manitoba on November 25, 1961. The third paragraph of it reads as follows:

First of all, we would like to thank you and your government for the initiative you have taken in setting up some of the policies we have been requesting for a number of years.

And they did so. The farm organizations know what happened to their briefs or presentations under the previous administration. They were locked up in the cupboard or thrown in the wastebasket. Everybody knows that. Every farmer in the country will tell you that. Indicating what they are grateful for, the paragraph continues:

Namely crop insurance—

Oh, how that step was criticized.

—deficiency payment program on hogs and eggs, feed and fodder assistance, etc., and the improvements made on existing programs.

That is just one example of the approval given by farm organizations whose membership consists of those belonging to various political faiths. Their leadership could get away with drastic criticism a great deal faster than they can get away with passing on compliments to the government of the day. I have not the time in which to quote from the *Western Producer*. However, I should just like to mention the page numbers which hon. gentlemen can refer to if they wish to follow this matter up. I would refer them to the national farm union brief at page 8, where they commend the Minister of Trade and Commerce for external trade, and also pages 9 and 10. I would also refer to the brief of the federation of agriculture at page 6. I would ask hon. members to read those briefs very carefully. We have taken the farm organizations into our confidence. We have established a measure of co-operation between the government and Canadian agriculture. Canadian agriculture has come to realize that the government alone cannot do everything and the government knows full well that it cannot do anything without their co-operation. The farm organizations appreciate that fact.

I am still watching the clock, Mr. Speaker, but I have one more matter that I should like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture whom we wish a speedy recovery and hope to see back in his place at an early date. I also wish to bring the matter to the attention of the government as a whole. There are certain difficulties with which we are going to be faced this spring and which the measures we have in mind are not going to take care of. These may require immediate attention. I have in mind those farmers who