

before us. If the hon. member says he would conclude his remarks in a very few minutes I would ask the committee to give him leave. Otherwise I must apply the rules to prevent a general discussion from ensuing. Otherwise, where would I draw the line?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Five hundred dollars has been paid for this report, and I understand that the same amount was paid last year. Responsible members of this house want to know what was obtained for the money expended; they want to know whether it has been worth while. There is only one way in which we can determine whether that \$500 was wisely spent, and that is to see what was got out of it.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may say whether he is in favour of this expenditure or against it, but he cannot discuss the merits or demerits of a report which is not before us at this time. We are in committee of supply to which this report has not been submitted.

Mr. CRERAR: I think the hon. member has performed a valuable service in drawing this matter to the attention of the committee. This vote is really for the purpose of printing the report. When the report was received earlier in the year a number of mimeographed copies were made. There were some graphs and maps attached to it, and the purpose of this vote is to print the report so that it will be available to those who are interested and wish to study it. Perhaps I am trespassing on the bounds of order, but I should like to say that the report is a very full and important one. When the session is over and we have time to study these matters, I have in mind taking the matter up with the Alberta government. On the basis of the report an agreement with the Alberta government will be necessary in connection with certain features of the development. The development will cost a considerable sum of money, and it was thought that this could be usefully carried on when the war is over. So far as our position with the United States under the international agreement is concerned, I do not think there is much danger of our losing it during the period of the war. In other words, Canada's position will be just as secure at the end of the war as it was at the beginning. With the statement I have made and with the assurance I have given, perhaps the hon. member will agree that your ruling, Mr. Chairman, should stand.

Mr. BLACKMORE: If I could have five or six minutes to lay out the essentials I

would be quite satisfied. I did not intend to speak long, but the hon. member for Peel raised the question.

Mr. GRAYDON: I apologize.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The hon. member for Peel has no reason to apologize.

The CHAIRMAN: Do I understand that the hon. member has the leave of the committee to speak for five minutes more?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I shall proceed by continuing what I was going to set forth for the benefit of the hon. member for Peel. If we have to maintain a large force on the Pacific coast, I ask the hon. member for Peel whether it would be wiser and more economical for Canada to transport canned vegetables and canned fruits all the way from Ontario to the Pacific coast than to transport them from southern Alberta?

Mr. MacNICOL: We would like to buy from southern Alberta too.

Mr. BLACKMORE: A wide area consisting of 345,000 acres could be brought under irrigation for about \$15,000,000, and it would provide all the vegetables and fruits which would be needed by all the armed forces that would be necessary to defend Canada along the west coast and Alaska.

Mr. GRAYDON: We grow pretty good ones in our own part of the country.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): How long would it take to get the land into production?

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member has five minutes and I should like him to use them. Otherwise this will develop into a general discussion.

Mr. BLACKMORE: After I have used up my five minutes I shall be willing to answer any questions. I am prepared to do so; I am not saying that I want to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. member misused a minute or two himself by putting questions to others.

Mr. BLACKMORE: This area has a climate which is probably as dependable as any climate on the north American continent. There is excellent soil and an abundance of water that would not fail. This area could be developed to produce 87 per cent of the sugar used by Canada before rationing was introduced. In addition to that, it could produce a great deal of meat and milk and all manner of animal products after probably a year or