

Farm Machinery

responsibilities in this house more sincerely than that. We are prepared to look at the legislation and consider it.

Last night the Minister of Agriculture proclaimed that we in the opposition had asked for this legislation but that now we had it we would not pass it. He almost cried because the member for Acadia had spoken twice and had just blown a lot of hot air, or so he thought. He thought we were holding up this legislation because we wanted an election. I am convinced he thinks this legislation is so important that we might have to fight an election over it. Perhaps he was afraid that was the case.

Let us look at the facts. Our leader said "Bring in the legislation and we will proceed to pass it". That is what we are now doing. The minister should not be too concerned because we want to change the legislation slightly and improve it a great deal. He should not be alarmed because of the attitude taken by those members who feel their concern and responsibility very deeply. The minister was concerned that we should condemn this legislation on the one hand and observe that it had some beneficial aspects on the other. I suggest that is the situation in respect of an honest appraisal of any piece of legislation. Surely it is the duty of a member of parliament to point out his concern about a legislative measure. It is the duty of every hon. member to make known his fears and to point out those aspects of any measure which may be of some benefit.

As I sat and listened to the minister's remarks last evening I thought to myself that he is the Minister of Agriculture for Canada and the man to whom the farmers look for leadership. I listened to his speech in the hope that it would contain some answers to the questions which have been asked, but all it contained was a bunch of picayune political remarks about this brother and that brother, and about chinook winds blowing in southern Alberta.

The Minister of Agriculture did not rise in his place and defend this measure. This is a measure he could have brought in over a year ago, but he could not persuade his government to allow him to put it on the paper until this fall. He could not persuade his government to adjourn the flag debate and allow him to bring this measure before the house at that time. He could not persuade his government to allow us to debate this measure today and tomorrow, and perhaps pass it. No; tomorrow we must consider more estimates.

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

An hon. Member: Why don't we pass it today?

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Perhaps we will. Why did we not debate this measure last Wednesday rather than consider estimates? Who is holding up this measure? The government could have proposed this legislation a month ago and allowed us to debate it last Wednesday, at which time we perhaps would have passed it. I suggest this measure has been delayed as a result of the order of government business; or the lack of order, one might say.

Mr. Speaker, let us consider for a moment the leadership that is being given by the Minister of Agriculture. What do the farm publications say about his leadership? The minister referred last evening to the *Family Herald*, a well known and respected weekly farm paper. What does that publication say about the minister's leadership? What does the *Country Guide*, a monthly farm magazine, say about the minister's leadership? I should like to quote from an editorial which appeared in the *Country Guide* in September, 1964. It states:

One of the ways that the Department of Agriculture has of passing information along to farmers is through news releases directed to the farm press. A recent one surprised us. The information in it was about Hon. Harry Hays, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Moreau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Moreau: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the hon. member for Acadia is hardly addressing himself to the bill now before the house.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Timiskaming has indicated he wishes to speak on the same point of order.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw your attention to the remarks made by the minister last evening during his speech, which were very seldom in order in that they were not directed to the amendment or the bill, but were highly political. I suggest the hon. member for Acadia should be allowed to reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We have not heard the remarks of the hon. member for Acadia, so it is rather difficult for the Chair to decide