

*Supply—Agriculture*

has been touched on very briefly by the hon. member who has just sat down is that of vertical integration. These two problems have to be dealt with together, because no one scheme will help western agriculture. There has to be a general policy which is going to include all the factors which are important in developing our agricultural economy.

With regard to this brief which has been presented to us and to the government by the delegation of western farmers, I want first of all to say that I was very proud of the delegates who came from my area. I think they all acted like gentlemen and there was only one matter I found fault with, which was the premise which had been drilled into them by the members of the neighbouring farm unions and the Saskatchewan wheat pool that "You had better help us farmers get our deficiency payments or we'll go into livestock, and then look out." I think this is a completely false premise, because if you go over the figures you will find that the farmers in Saskatchewan have been diversified and since 1951 have been increasing the numbers of livestock on their farms, and these are the people this brief discriminates against and would not take into consideration. The points they raise are good, but the solution they suggest is not in the best interests of agriculture in western Canada.

I wonder, sir, to what extent the instigation of this brief from this delegation, as it was undertaken by the Saskatchewan wheat pool, was to encourage the production of wheat so we would have a larger surplus and the Saskatchewan wheat pool would be able to make more money storing the grain at government expense. This point has not been raised and I think it should be, because it is certainly a factor raised by the delegation in the brief.

We in western Canada, particularly in my constituency where mixed farming is the vogue, where they have been diversified and have had the initiative to go out and raise various types of crops and livestock, are concerned that a program such as this would do nothing more than give to those people who are now driving a Cadillac also a Buick, and they certainly do not need it. I think this whole problem, not only of income to the farmers but of vertical integration, should be, as I said, dealt with as one problem.

The solution to vertical integration by meat packing companies, feed companies and such like is to put our family farms in a position where they cannot only compete but will be the ones which provide most of the produce. We can do this by the policy which this government has outlined for agriculture. We are very happy with the announcement of the

Minister of Agriculture with regard to hogs, and we feel that this is one method whereby deficiency payments can be used very well. The question of when deficiency payments should be used on grain can certainly be discussed and should receive consideration, but that is not the problem which was raised or presented by this brief. So the solution to our problem is to set up the family farmer so he can compete with modern business methods and with modern technical improvements. To do this as the last speaker has said, we need a new credit system, crop insurance programs and an effective soil use program; and we need most of all the stabilization bill.

How do you define a family farm? The definition of a family farm is a farm on which the family is living. This is important, because it does not apply to a lot of the wheat farmers in Saskatchewan. The government is in support of the type of farmer who is working the year round, and if he is given this support he can be the most efficient type of farmer in the country and in that way can combat vertical integration from the ground. The important point in western agriculture at the moment is that we must support this family farm, the people living on the farm working 12 months of the year and who deserve our support, not only for economic reasons but also for social reasons and for the whole rehabilitation of rural agriculture.

As I said, this government has done a lot for agriculture in the last two years and the farmers in my area appreciate it. They appreciate the announcement with regard to hogs. The only addition we would like to suggest is that any deficiency payment on hogs be made on a premium basis; in other words, that no deficiency payment be made on grade C hogs. The other suggestion is that the floor price on hogs should be removed entirely and a deficiency payment system used exclusively. This does not mean that one should take over a deficiency payment scheme and use it on every product, because that would defeat the very purpose of the stabilization bill, and defeat the flexibility which is the important part of the bill. In years to come in our international relations we will have to play a part in the economic cold war, and there will be a case for the government buying up produce so they can dispose of it to the underdeveloped countries, or dispose of these products to an international food bank in the future.

As I have said, we all know very well the other things the government has done, but