

*Supply—Agriculture*

One thing that has bothered me quite considerably about some of the remarks made in regard to the delegation from the west is that there has been a tendency to make attacks on the person of the head of the wheat pool, Mr. Wesson; in fact, attacks on the wheat pool itself. The inference is that through the efforts of Mr. Wesson and the wheat pool as a whole something has been put over the western farmers and they have been enticed into doing something which was very foolish, and so forth and so on.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** Do you really believe that?

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** Do I believe that? Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to know just what to believe, owing to the welter of evidence which has been produced on both sides of this particular argument. But the important point, Mr. Chairman, is the inherent danger in this particular aspect of the problem. It smacks entirely too much of the attack we have seen on labour throughout this country in the last few years. An attempt has been made to make the Canadian people believe that every union leader is a Hoffa. It is always by implication, it is always about somebody else but it is always the same thing. I am a bit concerned that we are seeing slight elements of the same type of campaign with regard to the wheat pool and its leader, Mr. Wesson. What we should remember is that 1,100 very able western delegates came to Ottawa, many of whom proved on different occasions that they were very capable speakers, and they chose Mr. Wesson as their spokesman. Consequently we can only assume that he had their confidence.

There is only one other matter with which I should like to deal today in my few remarks at this stage and that is the figure of 24 per cent increase in net earnings mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture. I do not think he did it intentionally but the minister threw out this 24 per cent figure at the same time as he was giving some statistics. The 24 per cent certainly was not a statistic. I think "guesstimate" is a much better way to describe it.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, I do not think the hon. member wants to make an incorrect statement. This statistic is a statistic and I gave the source of it. It was put out by the dominion bureau of statistics only a few days ago. I also gave the same statistic for last year as contained in the same document. It is a D.B.S. figure.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** In any event, Mr. Chairman, before we can swallow the 24 per cent [Mr. Martin (Timmins).]

cent completely I think it should be related a little more clearly to just what the situation is in the farming industry in Ontario. Various speakers who have dealt with farm problems have pointed out how big a factor vertical integration is coming to be in the province of Ontario and in other provinces as well, particularly with regard to the broiler industry, the poultry industry, and it is also spreading into other sectors of the economy. There was one thing I did not notice at the time and possibly I should have asked a question then. Does the 24 per cent apply to the farmers' net income or to the net income of the industry as a whole?

**Mr. Harkness:** Net income of farm operators.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** I would assume that the category, "farm operator" would also include some of the large corporations which have gone into the contract farming business. Before we can get a clear picture, before we can assume that the farmers did indeed improve their position as much last year as the minister seemed to indicate, I think we have to have a breakdown of the 24 per cent, if that is the exact figure, to see how much actually accrued to farmers and how much accrued to corporations which have gone into the farming business.

**Mr. Harkness:** The exact figure is 23.8.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** Twenty-four is a good, approximate figure to use. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox and other members as well dealt with the situation of the family farm. I think family farms go a little deeper than the name suggests. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, it has been a way of life in this country, and if we are to believe the briefs presented by various farm organizations there is very little time left for the government to decide whether or not that way of life is worth preserving. If less time were spent in trying to blame whatever problems respecting agriculture facing the government on the previous administration and more time and honest effort were spent in trying to face up to the present problems and do something about them, the government might be worthy of the confidence placed in it in March of last year.

**Mr. Campbell (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to have this opportunity to rise and speak on a number of problems which I am very pleased to say are not problems of surplus production. I have listened with great concern at a number of meetings held in this city recently in connection with the problems of agriculture and most of the problems have centered around the surplus production of various things. Suggestions have been made at these meetings as