

house for the authority to do so, I am sure it would have obtained it. This is a sad story of the ineptitude and the failure of this government to recognize a problem which so seriously affects all the people of western Canada, and particularly those people of Peace River for whom I am trying to make this case.

• (5:00 p.m.)

This failure is recognized. I have in my hands a recent editorial in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, a paper which usually supports the government but which is objective when it comes to the recognition of the problems of agricultural Canada. This editorial says in part:

The federal task force on agriculture, in a report in March, was strongly critical of policies of both the government and the Canadian Wheat Board which had put undue emphasis on the production of wheat. It found that the temporary Wheat Reserves Act which provided assistance to farmers with farm stored wheat, "subsidizes producers' incomes after they have produced in excess of market demands, and encourages them to continue producing." It held that the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act was stacked in favour of the production of wheat: it pays a higher price per bushel on wheat than on oats and barley. It held that the Canadian Wheat Board had been traditionally prejudiced against feed grains and in favour of milling wheat—

Further, on, in dealing with probable solutions—I come back to the question which the minister slid over regarding one of the proposals which emanated from this party, and from other opposition parties, on the matter of acreage payments—it reads as follows:

Acreage payments were three times used by the Diefenbaker government to cushion farmers over bad years, though the payments then were \$1 an acre with a maximum of \$200 per farmer. It is the quickest way of getting cash—which is the immediate need—into farmers' hands.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but his time has expired. He may continue with the unanimous agreement of the house.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Baldwin: I have one more sentence, Mr. Speaker. Therefore I say that there are solutions, and that we are not prepared to forget the defects and the deficiencies of the government over the last year and a half. I suggest that they seek out the ways and means which can be utilized to bring the farmers of western Canada over the most difficult of periods, and if they do so I assure

you, Mr. Speaker, that they will find ample support from this side of the house.

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, first of all I should apologize for speaking on agriculture as in a way I am a city person whose only real experience with agriculture has been working on ranches in Alberta in my youth, which does not qualify me to speak on present day wheat problems because, first, I was not on a wheat farm, and second, my youth was long enough ago that the knowledge I gained then is almost irrelevant today.

Mr. Baldwin: Don't you worry, the Prime Minister speaks about them.

Mr. Pepin: And so do you.

Mr. Osler: But I wanted to speak in this debate, and I think I know a little about the problem. I felt therefore that I must get up and speak; especially when I find that the much-publicized western rump of the conservative party is so poorly represented in the debate this afternoon, and someone must give a western point of view.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Osler: I think that we have all had a very instructive speech from the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). I just hope that there will be more hon. members who will express their thoughts because though they have been vocal at other times, this is the time for them to be constructively so.

Mr. Aiken: They will be. Just wait, they are here today.

Mr. Osler: I suppose they will speak when their roster system allows them to do so.

An hon. Member: Don't be jealous just because you cannot work one out.

Mr. Osler: However, speaking seriously, I do not think anybody, anywhere would try to say that there is not a large problem. Every man and his dog have an opinion about how they can help the farmer, but most of their solutions are so costly, and would be so ruinous to the country as a whole that not much of the country would be left if they were adopted.

However, there is a very bad world wide problem in agriculture and I suppose that no matter what government were in power the problem would exist. There are at least four