

The Address—Mr. H. O. White

markets. I feel rather sorry for the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner).

Mr. Gardiner: Don't feel sorry for me; feel sorry for yourself. We will be around when you are gone.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): That is what you think.

Mr. Harkness: Are you going to starve us out of the farming business?

Mr. Gardiner: You made enough out of your hogs.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): The gamble has been lost. If ever there was a gamble in food, it was the action taken by this government. It is not so bad to gamble, but it is bad to lose. What has happened in connection with the contracts for foods that have been consummated? Two thousand million dollars lost. Our farmers are worried. For a few minutes I should like to refer to the position in which the Canadian farmer finds himself.

Who has these contracts now? Poland has one for \$600 million, and other iron-curtain countries have other contracts. By the way, we could use some of the steel that is being sent to iron-curtain countries. We could exchange wheat, poultry products and other things for that steel. What about these pacts with the U.S.S.R.? I should like to quote an article which appeared this morning in the *Ottawa Journal*, as follows:

Secretary-General Harry Pollitt of the British communist party said here today that soviet exports would be "an important factor in bringing down exorbitant American and Canadian prices for wheat."

Addressing a meeting, he said the world "may get a surprise shortly at the amount of wheat the soviet union could put into the wheat pool."

Would socialist Britain like to destroy the free economy of Canada and the United States? If so, will the failure to buy our products help to bring that about? What about this myth of stability in connection with cheese, butter, flax, soybeans, wheat and white beans? The farmers of southwestern Ontario are worried about markets for their special crops and I should like to say a word or two about white beans.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Golding): I would remind the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): If I may be allowed to conclude, I shall be very brief.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Golding): By unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): The bean marketing organization has a quantity of beans. A market was found in Australia for

[Mr. White (Middlesex East).]

between 50,000 and 75,000 bushels of Canadian beans. The money was available and the price satisfactory, but the socialist Australian government refused an import permit. They decide, as they do in all other countries, what they think is good or bad for their people. The Australian people lost the opportunity to obtain these beans, and Canadian farmers are stuck with beans they would like to sell. That is an indication of what is going on in the world when a government can decide what they think people ought to have.

While the minister and his assistants were abroad seeking more contracts for Canadian food products, the Supreme Court of Canada kicked the Canadian farmers on the shins over the Dairy Industry Act. I would suggest that the supreme court take a look at some of the laws this government has passed in the last few years. I do not believe any of them would stand the acid test. One instance is that of the jeweler in Pembroke who was fined for not collecting money for the government when he was not being paid to do so.

Mr. Sinclair: Did the Tories not have a resolution on margarine at their national convention? You agreed with the supreme court.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Golding): Order. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Roland Beaudry (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the other day the official opposition expressed some surprise at the frankness with which we speak on this side of the house. Today, even at the risk of again jolting the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), I am going to speak my frank opinion on one or two topics. First, I will be frank with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). When the time has come to deal with minor matters I will resume with the member for Carleton (Mr. Drew) the discussion on frankness which he opened the other day with the member for Vancouver North (Mr. Sinclair), and which I understand was more or less kept alive by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) yesterday afternoon.

Let us tackle important matters first. I should like to be candid and frank with the Minister of Finance, and I am very appreciative of the fact that he is in the house now. I do not like his income tax policy, and my constituents do not like it either, which makes it unanimous in my constituency. I did not like it last year; I did not like it two years ago, and I told him so in the house. I am glad to be able to say that my words bore fruit because last year the Minister of Finance found it advisable to grant certain measures of relief which I had advocated for those Canadians getting along in years.