

edible oils. It has been suggested that substitutions can be made. It is extremely difficult to have a saleable substitute product, but with the present non-policy we are going to find ourselves in trouble. The consumer in Canada will unquestionably find a shortage of margarine if government policy is not changed.

I suggest there will be a growing shortage of margarine which, in turn, will increase the demand for dairy products, and production in this regard has been no more than adequate under past marketing conditions. We know from past history that this government has no consideration for the farmer, and we know from past history that this government is not going to be concerned with the future problems of the farmer. This was illustrated by the Minister of Agriculture when he spoke tonight.

These problems have to be resolved. We have to keep our protein processing industry going. In order to do so we may have to exchange protein units with our neighbour to the south. If we are to have certain food products on our shelves at reasonable prices to consumers we must guarantee a supply of edible oils for the manufacture and processing of food.

Members of the government have telegrams on their desks today from various people in the edible oil and protein industries. These people are complaining about the situation which now exists. There has been no mention of these complaints by a government member during this debate, but these complaints do exist. In spite of the fact the government has stated we have plenty of protein in Canada today, and much of this is not marketable, some users of protein are stating unequivocally there is not enough protein in animal foods in Canada to last until September 30, which is the earliest possible date on which quotas from the United States can be lifted. We must also negotiate with the United States in respect of the quotas which were imposed when the United States put on controls. We must negotiate in respect of controls on protein or edible oils imported from the United States.

The government has asked for suggestions as to what can be done. Let me refer to three things that must be attempted forthwith. There must be margarine on our shelves, we must have oil to process fish, and we must have oil for french fries, potato chips and other like items. If not, we will be faced with a reduction in the income of our fishermen, farmers and labourers in the food processing industry across this country. We must act in this regard very quickly.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I regret the fact that I am keeping the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) in charge of the Wheat Board from his beauty sleep. He obviously is one Liberal who needs his beauty sleep more than anybody else. Nevertheless, I was very interested in the fact that they had a general conference in Vancouver featuring the remaining survivors of his party. They wanted to revive their legions in western Canada. They spent the weekend philosophizing in front of television cameras. What they came up with in western Canada was a separate culture.

● (2330)

An hon. Member: Biological.

Feed Grains

Mr. Rose: Biologically it is a separate culture. Liberalism is no longer indigenous to western Canada. As a matter of fact instead of it being a story of how the west was won, I think it scattered everybody in sight including their own members.

I noted, with a little regret, that both the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain), who just spoke, suggested that members of our party seem to be in bed with the government. I think the term they used, which is most unparliamentary, was "hypocrites". I really do not know the definition of a hypocrite, not being a student of the Bible as is my colleague the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Patterson) who is not here tonight to speak on behalf of the many feeders in his riding. I think they should examine where the Conservative Party were, in opposition to the Olympics, and where they were when we were having a look at the corporate rip-off, if they wish to bring down the government and have another election. If they felt that strongly about it, it seems we could have had an election at that time. But when it really came to the crunch, where were they?

The hon. member for Peace River suggested that the NDP were against the middleman. I can well recall a story told by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) about the middleman. However, one of the problems in respect of the Conservative Party is that its members are not middlemen at all, but they are muddled men. They really do not know which way they are supposed to move at any particular time. In spite of keeping the minister up so late, I regret that up to this point he has been reluctant to spell out the kind of policy he anticipates for the people who purchase feed grain in this country, if there is any policy.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) spoke a few moments ago. It seems like a few moments, ago, because whenever he speaks time just flits by since usually there is a vacuous kind of statement from him. He said he would support the policy if he thought it was right, and if not he would speak out against it. I feel the same way. But my problem is that I do not know what the policy is, and neither do any of the feeders in Canada. The minister is flying these barrage balloons, or blimps, all across Canada and nobody knows what the policy is. He might be prepared to defend it to the end, but what he is saying is that he wants to drop it at the western premiers' conference next week. He will drop a blimp at the western premiers' conference. I will feel sorry if he does that.

In the meantime, the purchasers of feed grains in our country spend their time agonizing. I do not say that lightly because they are agonizing. A month ago I attended a meeting, at Carleton Towers, of the National Broilers Association. A resolution was passed at that meeting pleading with the minister to assure the feeders that there would be adequate food grains in Canada. Many of them happen to live in my riding, but they represent feeders all across Canada in the broiler industry. They wished to be assured of an adequate supply at a reasonable price. In spite of this very genuine plea, to my knowledge they have not received a reply. I have not heard a word that would reassure them. I have not even heard a monosyllable. I would prefer monosyllables to the kind of utterances we