

copy of it. I asked for a copy and was told that the report will not be published until mid-October.

Mr. McGrath: I will send you a copy of it.

Mr. Whelan: You can't get a copy. The public cannot get a copy, but reporters working for the *Financial Times* and the *Toronto Star* got selected leaks. Those selected leaks add up to a straight smear job. The report allegedly says that higher food prices will not help the farmer. I wonder if the writers of such an alleged report believe that economists would be better off if their salaries went down. I wonder if they believe all Canadians would be better off if the return on their labour and investment went down. Try telling the farmers of Canada that they would be better off if the price of their produce went down. You know what the answer would be. It would be a dead halt to farming in Canada, with no more grain, no more beef, no more dairy products and no more fresh fruits and vegetables.

You hear people talking about the production of chickens and eggs in the same way as they talk about the production of other commodities. Well, chickens are not like other commodities. For example, look at a factory which makes television sets or cars. The people running it use computers and marketing specialists to judge demand. On the basis of the advice they are given, they produce so many cars, refrigerators or television sets. What happens if they make a mistake in forecasting? They turn the production-line off and put their men on unemployment insurance. In the case of eggs, if there is a mistake we all pay, because everybody pays for unemployment insurance. On the other hand, if the farmer loses he pays for his own loss. You can't turn a chicken off, like a machine. Has anyone ever tried? You just can't turn him off.

An hon. Member: No, you just can't turn off.

Mr. Whelan: The chicken, which if fed high protein food just cannot be turned off. I did not mean to refer to the male species of the chicken. You can only stop a chicken from laying by chopping off its head. That is the least costly method. Regardless of what is said in this so-called report just referred to, a copy of which I have not been able to get, in my part of the country a lot of egg producers run their operation as a family venture. Judging from what has been said, one would think such people have gone on unemployment insurance. Our farmers are growing older. The average age of farmers in this country is close to 60 years. There are more senior citizens in farming than in any other occupation. Do you think they stay in it for so long because there is so much money to be made? There is no pension available for them and they must keep on producing. Some people think a chicken is a machine. It is probably a much more efficient machine for turning grain into a high-protein food than one which any scientist could devise. A chicken produces one of the best foods in the world.

The writers of the report allegedly say that 80 per cent of our farmers should be shoved off their farms and put on the public dole. Since there is so much talk about how much farms should produce, perhaps we could look at the universities of Canada. Ten of our biggest universities are turning out nearly 50 per cent of all students. If we

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adopted the philosophy of efficiency as set out in the report, the inefficient, smaller universities would be shut down. Furthermore, carrying the comparison further, egg producers are not indentured as some professors are. Our egg farmers do the best job in the world in creating something the consumer needs. Should anyone cut their income? Try doing that to university professors who are indentured. They enjoy more security than members of this House.

The world needs Canadian farmers, Mr. Speaker. They are the best, the most efficient, the most productive farmers in the world, considering the climatic conditions they work under. This country needs good farmers a heck of a lot more than it needs half-baked economists or half-baked economic reports.

I believe some hon. members opposite know a fellow named Dalton Camp. A few weeks ago that gentleman wrote a column in the *Toronto Star* about the beef industry. I expect a few members opposite wished he had never written that column. Mr. Camp said that beef prices should have been forced down in this country. He wanted beef prices forced down at a time when producers were already losing \$100 and more for every head sold to the meat packers. He wanted the federal government to brew a recipe of certain bankruptcy for every beef producer in this country. Why, Mr. Speaker? So that consumers could buy beef for a few cents a pound less for a few months. And what about the long term? Mr. Camp didn't mention that his policies would force beef prices right through the roof two or three years from now. He didn't mention the fact that thousands of Canadians who work in the beef industry as meat packers, truckers and butchers would be thrown out of work. He didn't mention that Canada would then have to depend totally on imports of beef supplies in the future and probably pay a lot of money for low quality meat.

He also did not mention, when alluding to the use of DES, that the Department of National Health and Welfare was against its use. If he had talked to officials of the department here in Ottawa, I am sure they would have told him that they were against its use. That department, and not the Department of Agriculture, wanted to ban the use of DES for the protection of human beings in Canada. The only country in the world which allows the use of this substance is the United States. He didn't say that in his column, but tried to intimate that the ban was a gimmick which we used to protect the cattlemen.

● (1700)

Mr. Camp implied that the Canadian Cattlemen's Association contributed money to the Liberal election campaign, but he did not bother to check his facts with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association or with the Liberal Party. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association set the record straight, but only after the damage had been done. In a letter to the editor of the *Toronto Star*, Charles Gracey of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association said that not one penny was contributed to any political party during the last election campaign. I wish Mr. Camp had used his connections within the Conservative Party to check his facts with a former president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave). I expect that the policies the federal