

Supply

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister for his answer, and I do hope that concerning weaner pig producers—I believe we have not been able to get any answer concerning pig fatteners, or finishers—the minister would give me the answer as well because the program was announced sometime later during the year, namely, in August. We are getting many telephone calls from producers who are waiting. Would the date that the minister has just indicated for pig fatteners, late December, apply as well to weaner pig producers?

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, I am a little confused. There are only two programs, one for weaner pigs and one for the finished product. I did not give the figures on the weaner pigs. There have been 5,890 applications of which 1,678 have been processed. The two provinces with the most producers are Quebec with 3,220 applications of which 1,076 have been processed and Ontario with 1,005 applications of which 236 have been approved. The percentage processed to date is 28 per cent. This kind of program requires more checking to determine whether a farmer is really a weaner pig producer. We must be very careful because it is government money we are spending. We hope that those which are not finished by the end of the year will be finished by the first month of the new year.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister. As regards the assistance program to the provinces under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, I would like to know what are the real amounts spent on cold storage? What are the amounts for which the Government of Canada is committed with regard to cold storage through the Department of Agriculture?

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, the projects to which the hon. member has referred are programs for cold storage, controlled atmospheric temperature storage and jacketed storage. From 1973 to 1980, 97 projects amounting to \$10,743,869 were started. The number of applications for the fiscal year 1980-1981 is 42. That is how fast this program is growing. There will not be enough funding for all of these programs and some will have to be carried into next year because it is rapidly becoming the kind of program which we want it to be. We will be placing Canadian vegetables in cold storage and they will be as good as the day they were picked, on Christmas day, New Year's Day, St. Patrick's day, Valentine's day, and right up to the day the new products come on the market.

From 1973 to 1980, 23 projects were started in Quebec with a total value of \$2,263,633, and in Ontario 32 projects got under way with a total value of \$2,780,753. The province which spent the most money, although it had the same number of projects as Québec, was British Columbia, which had a total expenditure of \$3,807,125.

These programs allow for the export of a larger quantity of a product. For instance, British Columbia is now exporting apples to 34 different countries around the world. Quebec has used the program for apples, carrots and other vegetables to supply the state of New York and that area of the United States for a good part of the year.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dubois: One last question, Mr. Chairman. Although we produce a lot of milk in Canada, we unfortunately import a lot of cheese and similar products. I would like to know what is the proportion of department funds going to our processing industry, because I feel we have the potential here, with our milk production, to produce our own cheese and dairy products without such a high volume of imports. What is the percentage of the funds going to processing plants?

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, the import quota for cheeses was 50 million pounds. Before that quota was established, there was no quota and one could import as much as one wanted. The quota was then changed to 45 million pounds. The increase in the production of Canadian cheese over the past six years has been phenomenal, particularly with regard to specialty cheeses. I believe over 70 different varieties of cheese are made in Canada. We can compete with any country in the world and we are giving the other countries a lot of competition in this area.

Last year we exported to the United Kingdom and the United States six million pounds of cheese, although Canada is a net importer of cheese. The cheese which goes to the United States is mostly specialty cheese. We are now exporting about ten million hundredweights of milk composed of evaporated milk and instantized whole milk powder which is equivalent to 90 million pounds of cheese. I did not know that figure until now. I knew we were exporting a tremendous amount of condensed milk, which is better for us because we have less butter, less powder and less storage costs. All of these things make it better for the dairy industry. I repeat again, our dairy industry is the healthiest in the world.

• (2150)

Mr. McLean: Mr. Chairman, I had hoped to have enough time, with the concurrence of hon. members opposite, not only to ask some questions but to get a response from the minister. I regret that it may only be possible to raise the questions so, since the minister's colleagues have not permitted time for his response, I hope he will be prepared to reply in writing.

I want to inform the minister that today, in this city, the Status of Women Canada held a debriefing session of delegates to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Copenhagen. The debriefing was attended by representatives of women's organizations from across this country.

One of the major sections of the report entitled "Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women" in which Canada concurred, deals with the place of