

*Agricultural Policies*

ed, is affected. Oshawa, where a great deal of automobile manufacturing is carried on, is also affected.

I acknowledge the need for adjustment in agriculture. Technology and the economics of the situation dictate that change must take place. In the past this was always accompanied by a degree of hardship, suffering and privation. The only answer of some people is to depopulate the rural areas, to move farmers off the land. It seems to me that the task force has partly adopted this attitude. I agree that some changes have to take place, that some adjustments have to be made, but we must be concerned about the future of the rural communities of Canada. Much of our rural life is undergoing change. This change is taking place throughout all levels of the rural community. The entire rural pattern of life is breaking down. I am not referring to a change in the old traditional way of doing things; I am referring to the whole pattern of community life, of serving the economic and social needs of people. We must be concerned with this. Farmers and rural people today demand services of the same calibre and type as are enjoyed by urban people. Skills are involved in the provision of those services.

Many of our rural people centre their activities on communities which provide modern services, but we have seen many examples where farm machinery agencies, automobile agencies and other businesses dependent upon such communities have been forced out of business.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

[Translation]

**Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in rising on the motion now before the House, which reads as follows:

That this House calls upon the government to reverse its present policies which have deliberately depressed the agricultural economy of this country, causing excessive unemployment, lack of income, slow economic growth and little hope for the future, and this House urges the government to take positive measures to ensure a dynamic rural community as an essential component of Canadian society.

• (4:40 p.m.)

I first wish to congratulate the mover of that motion, because I do not think that a motion has ever been so much to the point. It is useless to say that we, in the Ralliement créditiste, support such a motion.

[Mr. Burton.]

This afternoon, when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) rose in support of a policy that I would term "untenable", I was quite surprised to hear him accuse the opposition of questioning the integrity of a government member. I wonder now, having witnessed all what happened in the farm sector in Quebec and in other provinces as well, if we should not challenge the integrity of a private member or that of a whole government.

Our farmers are so revolted that they no longer know whom to blame. The minister is defending his farm policy by pointing out the measures adopted, such as the studies, the inquiries, the surveys, the classifications to improve cattle, etc. He has even alluded to the Crop Insurance Act to which the farmers contribute. However, the minister is forgetting that the farmers do not only live from royal inquiries, scientific studies and technical surveys but from the production of their farm operations.

Today, we should deal with what the farmers are complaining about. Now that they have done what they were asked to do by great government technocrats, that is build up economic units, and now that they have gone into debts for several years to mechanize their operations or to increase their livestock in order to meet the government's requirements, the farmers are penalized for their good work.

This is how this government is rewarding those who are working towards our economic development. Here again, we hear some Liberal members say that the motion moved today is retrograde. I am wondering if it is not more so to destroy what has been built, to reduce to nothing our lands, to drive our farmers into the cities and to say to them: Go and ask for welfare—as it is done in my own riding and elsewhere, where more than 50 per cent of the farmers must apply for welfare—all in the name of reform. At least, the government should put an end to that nonsense and find more logical reasons.

What has happened to the requests, demands, representations made by the farmers here in Parliament, outside as well as inside, during committee meetings? I shall simply quote an extract from an article published in the farmers' paper of my riding called: *La Terre de Chez-Nous*:

Telegram to Prime Minister Trudeau.

In a telegram to Prime Minister Trudeau the Quebec Federation of Industrial Milk Producers objects to the dairy policy for 1970-71 and asks that its enforcement be suspended immediately.