

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that, important as this question is, it requires a long and detailed answer and is not the type of question that should be asked on orders of the day.

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think this question has been before this house quite a few times. We know the Minister of Agriculture is a busy man, and we have very few opportunities of asking this question. The Quebec government is waiting for a decision by the federal government, and we are trying to get it out of the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Forestry. If an answer can be given it would certainly be nice to have since we have been waiting for it for several years.

[Translation]

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct to the Minister of Agriculture a supplementary question dealing with the Canadian farmers' income which, according to the September 23 bulletin of the dominion bureau of statistics, shows a 13 per cent increase, which is a satisfaction for our friends opposite.

If the farmers' income shows an increase of 13 per cent for Canada as a whole, could the Minister of Agriculture tell us why the income of the Ontario and Quebec farmers has decreased by \$46 million?

[Text]

Mr. Hays: This is not quite correct, Mr. Speaker. I suppose the hon. member got these figures from the d.b.s. report. I also read those particular figures. If I may, I should like to refer the hon. member back to page 3 of the d.b.s. report, which indicates that the income figures from dairying for 1963 cannot be compared with those in 1964.

What has happened is that the production data used for the 1964 income figures have been adjusted downward on the basis of the last census, but these downward adjustments have not been made for the figures for 1963 and preceding years. The d.b.s. had planned to show the adjustments for earlier years only in the year end statements of farm income.

The comparable figures for the two years, adjusting the 1963 production to the 1961 census as has been done for the 1964 data, are as follows; Quebec, 1964, \$74.6 million; 1963, \$72.6 million. The Ontario figures are, 1964, \$100.4 million and 1963, \$93.4 million. Possibly the largest reason for the increased income is the increased price of milk. As you know, Quebec has sold most of its cheese

to Great Britain at prices in the neighbourhood of 37 cents a pound, which is 2 cents a pound more than Ontario cheese sold for in Great Britain.

Mr. Graffey: May I ask a supplementary question. Does the minister still feel, in the light of those figures, that the dairy farmer is better off today than he has ever been for the last 15 years, a statement he made in this house a short time ago?

Mr. Hays: If the figures mean anything I would have to say yes, although we are not happy with the position and we intend to make it even better.

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): May I ask a supplementary question. What would be the minister's explanation for the reduction in revenue of Quebec farmers in the amount of \$9 million for the first six months?

Mr. Hays: I just might explain these d.b.s. figures, Mr. Speaker, but it will take some time. I shall be glad to do so, however.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Once more I must say this is the type of question which should be put on the order paper and not be asked at this time.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.—ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR MEN TO BE LAID OFF**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry. Can the minister advise on the success of his department's efforts to find alternative employment for the workers of the Enamel and Heating Company plant at Charlottetown, whose work on defence production has now been terminated?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, in spite of our best efforts we have not been successful in finding alternative work for the Enamel and Heating Company workers at Charlottetown, or work in addition to that which they are now doing.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**REPORTED REFUSAL OF ANNOUNCERS TO COVER ROYAL VISIT**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Rémi Paul (Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière): Mr. Speaker, I had a question