

indeed, if we could have agreed fully to the brief presented by the C.F.U.

If I had been in the opposition, I would have requested \$6 and more, and even the abolition of taxes. It is so easy. But when you are responsible for the administration, you have to do with what you have and balance the budget the best you can. Every minister, every department has its objects and its requests. And every minister would like to get more. The government ought to protect the producer and the consumer.

We all know also that taxes are never very popular. However, Mr. Chairman, I must give credit to the U.C.C. for the extraordinary work it does mainly in the province of Quebec. The U.C.C. is a living force which will accomplish ever more so long as it gets support from all sides. And we must give it the greatest possible support.

Supply, Mr. Chairman, has to be passed even in spite of criticism. It is so easy. This government has shown that it has done more in the last three years than all the governments since Confederation.

We have every reason to expect that we will do even more just as long as it is possible.

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Chairman, in view of the lateness of the hour, I shall cut short the remarks I had intended to make tonight. But, since my constituency is partly made up of farmers, and the dairy industry in my area holds a predominant place, I cannot but take a few minutes to join with those who made representations to the minister in favour of more sustained attention and a better share of the national income for the farmers.

Some time ago, the minister set forth his dairy policy for the year 1967-68. It is a known fact that never, since the time the present Liberal government has been occupying the treasury benches, has a policy given rise to so much discontent. When such peaceful people as farmers decide to march on the Canadian parliament, surely there is cause for concern.

And it is our duty, as representatives, to take the necessary steps in order to remedy as quickly as possible the farmers' predicament.

I have here, Mr. Chairman, an article published in *Le Devoir* on Tuesday, April 18, 1967, under the following heading:

The C.F.U. denounces Ottawa's new dairy policy and attacks violently the federal members for Quebec.

#### *Interim Supply*

And under the signature of Mr. Gilles Gariépy, one can read in the second paragraph of that article:

At a press conference the C.F.U. and the Federation stated that they were "bitterly disappointed" by the attitude of the federal members for Quebec who with their colleagues passed the legislation of last April 1.

Here, Mr. Chairman, I think that the writer forgot a very important word. He should have referred to "the stand taken by the federal Liberal members from Quebec", because we, on this side of the house, have tried on many occasions to call the minister's attention to the problems of the dairy industry to have him amend a dairy policy that we thought prejudicial to farmers.

The same article further states:

According to the two organizations, that piece of legislation shows the "irresponsibility and the inaction of our Quebec members."

Here again, Mr. Chairman, reference should have been made to the "irresponsibility and inaction of the Liberal members from Quebec," because they did very little and if they made any representations, as they claimed and as has just said the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) I am inclined to believe that those representations failed to impress the minister, since he did not lift a finger to help the farmers.

The statements made by the leaders of the Catholic Farmers Union with regard to that new dairy policy are not very flattering for the minister.

The dairy policy set forth by the minister for the year 1967-68 is described first as inadequate, second as inconsistent and third, as unfair to the farmers. Despite that unfavourable assessment made by the representatives of the agricultural class, the minister keeps on saying that it is the best dairy policy ever given to the Canadian people and that the dairy farmers are more prosperous than ever.

However when we listen to farmers, and especially the dairy farmers, we hear quite a different version. The minister should adapt himself to the situation.

Mr. Chairman, it is not necessary to go through many farm publications to realize that the dairy policy of the Minister of Agriculture is completely unsatisfactory and unacceptable to farm groups.

I have here the "Farm and Country" of Tuesday March 28, 1967, where we find the following heading: