

Supply

Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and Japan where the same food basket goes for \$135.10. It must be realized that the Canadian food policy situation is very important.

I would also like to deal with the Canadian policy as it affects Quebec. Many people complain and tell us that Quebec never got its fair share under the agricultural and dairy policy. It can be said that various federal as well as provincial sources confirm that between 20 and 25 per cent of the federal agriculture funds are spent in Quebec. During the last few years the annual budgets of Agriculture Canada and other associated agencies totalled about \$700 million. As we know, close to 50 per cent of the Dairy Commission budget alone is spent there, and that exceeds \$130 million a year. Between \$9 and \$10 million are provided for research and more that \$20 million for the administration of animal health inspection services, grants and so on in the province of Quebec. Those agencies were spending in Quebec about \$160 million or 23 per cent of their total budgets. So I do not think it is a striking and true example of neglect toward Quebec by the Canadian government in agriculture. In 1976 Quebec had 18.7 per cent of the agriculture population of Canada, 15.2 per cent of all farms and their farm income represented 13.5 per cent of the Canadian total. According to those criteria, Quebec has not been neglected by the federal treasury.

If we compare the percentage of Canadian income with the number of farms and examine the budgets of the Canadian Dairy Commission, many people who are not necessarily Quebec federalists can protest as much as they want but it is obvious that federal and provincial sources contradict those facts. Furthermore, the budget mentioned earlier does not include the amounts paid to Agriculture Quebec by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion within the agricultural subsidiary agreement in which the federal contribution amounts to \$61.9 million which represents 60 per cent of the total budget to be spent during the period from 1975 to 1982. So, this is one more case where Quebec receives its fair share.

Now, in respect of the votes of the Department of Agriculture, I have some questions to put to the minister regarding the dairy policy and some other policies of his department. First, I should like to ask him what are the amounts allotted. Here again I put the question for the information of those who are not aware of the amounts paid by the Canadian government for some programs. Most of the time they know that the cheques are coming from Quebec City, but in fact the money is coming directly from Ottawa. I wish to know what are the amounts of the subsidies, what assistance is given for the construction of silos, the purchase of drying equipment for grain and feed, the purchase of combines and for underground drainage. We know that a lot of money is coming from Ottawa and I wish to know if the minister could tell us the percentage or the amounts that Quebec receives from Ottawa for those programs.

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, the program the hon. member is talking about is one in the course of which we have signed an agreement with the province of Quebec in lieu of removal of feed freight assistance. The program for silos and other equipment is not broken down but \$33,500,000 of federal funds were allocated for that program. In Ontario the program would account for \$13,400,000.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Chairman, in the circumstances maybe we should have more publicity about the amounts which are going to Quebec directly from Ottawa as mentioned earlier, because as I realized during election campaigns, a large number of Quebecers are not aware of its source, particularly concerning the silo construction program. The Quebec farmer does not actually know how much comes from Ottawa and I think it might be appropriate to consider better advertising or at least better information about this funding situation.

I will now turn to another matter, the situation of the Agricultural Stabilization Board. About the way this board dealt with the problems of the Canadian hog producers, we know that last May the Government of Canada granted some \$46.5 million to hog fatteners. Unfortunately, quite a number of my constituents are complaining of incredible delays in the payments made by the board. The situation is the same for the weaner pig producers, to whom the Canadian government granted \$6.5 million. Concerning finishers, I would like to know how many applications have been received and how many cheques have really been mailed. I would like to know the same about the weaner pig producers. How many applications did he receive and how many cheques have been mailed? Very recently when we were making inquiries we were told that should arrive in a few days. We have been getting this answer for quite a while when making inquiries. Many of my constituents who are hog producers are complaining about that delay. I would like to have an answer to my question concerning the cow-calf producers and weaner pig producers.

● (2140)

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, the total number of applications received under the market hog program for stabilization is 24,778, and the number of applications processed for payment is 14,332. The two provinces with the most applications were Quebec with 3,427, 1,274 of which are processed and Ontario with 9,482, 6,029 of which are processed. In the weaner pig program, there have been 5,890 applications received and 1,678 have been processed. Since 58 per cent of the applications to the hog program have been processed, it should be finished by the end of December, 1980. Payments made to date under the hog program amount to \$19.9 million.