

And the answer was the following:

April 1, 1967 to March 31, 1968, 488,189 cwt.;  
April 1, 1968 to March 31, 1969, 478,504 cwt.

Butter has even been imported, while it is said that we do not even know what to do with domestic supplies, which prompts the government to levy taxes on producers of manufacturing milk.

As far as imports are concerned, according to a table at page 29 of a bulletin published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1969, 67,200 hundredweights of butter were imported while we had surpluses in Canada. As for cheese, I admit that certain special kinds must be imported, because we have not yet succeeded in manufacturing them in Canada and if the consumer wants them, I could not blame him. However, it is unthinkable that in a single year we import 222,233 hundredweights of that product from the United States, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, Rumania and Hungary.

I feel that the necessary studies should be conducted—and this is the suggestion I take the liberty of addressing to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson)—in order to find new ways of processing industrial milk to increase consumption considerably and even sell it on international markets. It is not any more wrong for us to try and secure international outlets than it is for the countries I have just mentioned to sell their products in Canada.

It is only very recently that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) went to New Zealand where it is reported he stated that the control of dairy production in Canada was intentional and was designed to reduce production, which would allow New Zealanders to export butter to Canada. This is astounding when our people have to grapple with a very difficult situation and are putting up a strong fight to survive in order to make our parishes more prosperous and better able to fight poverty and, as pointed out in the fifth report of the Economic Council of Canada, develop small industries so as to give employment and increase purchasing power.

Apparently, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) has some responsibility in the field of imports and exports and I would ask him today to kindly look into the following situation. It seems that some products from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, including a great many dairy products for the feeding of calves, are coming into Canada.

#### *Government Administrative Policies*

In the Standing Committee on Agriculture, we studied for months the question of the dairy industry and the use of dairy products. Some government members sitting on the committee suggested that a larger quantity of milk be used to feed calves in order to make this milk into meat instead of butter, cheese or powdered milk.

Even though the farmers take care to obey the authorities and, in particular, the minister as well as the Canadian Dairy Commission, when another department lets in a foreign product, this is likely to counteract the efforts of the manufacturing milk producers and of the Canadian Dairy Commission. Then, we are going around in a circle, efforts are not co-ordinated and the desired results are not achieved, because of a lack of co-operation among departments.

I shall now deal with Vote 1 of the Department of Agriculture.

When the Standing Committee on Agriculture was considering a special matter referred to it by Parliament, namely, the dairy policy of the government for the year 1970-71, we were handed the blue book, that is the 1970-71 estimates which showed some cutbacks. These were said to amount to some \$10 million. However, on close examination, the amount of the cutback applying to agriculture, as shown on page 147 of the main estimates is \$28 million. This can be harmful to agriculture, spread over a period of 12 months. Of course, according to some officials and even to replies to questions, it might have been possible to transfer this amount to some other section of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, when I go into a shop to buy a pair of shoes and am offered a hat, that does not suit me. As for the millions of dollars that are being requested by the 25,000 farmers who signed a petition, yesterday I asked the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) when the emergency debate would take place, and his answer was as follows:

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, it will depend on the progress made. If all the legislation discussed with the House leaders is passed, it might be possible to hold, before June 26, the debate mentioned by the member.

The member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) asked whether it would be possible to meet this request a little earlier. He got the following answer:

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to discuss the matter with the representatives of the other parties, but I emphasize that we should conclude first the business of the House.