

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Some farmers and dairy producers want the minister to give specific orders to his department so that those payments will be made as soon as possible, as they need that money.

In his statement the Minister said that the first payments would be made during the dairy production year and would begin in two months or so, which means that the dairy producers will get this money in August and even only in September perhaps.

That is why on behalf of the dairy producers I urge the minister to kindly take the necessary steps so that those payments are not delayed, because those farmers need that money.

There is another thing that the milk producers have wanted to know for many weeks now: What will be the standards used by the price stabilization board to establish the national average for the dairy production year 1965-66?

On this point, the Minister said on June 1:

[English]

The Agricultural Stabilization Board will keep a record, on a monthly basis, of the total amount of money farmers receive for milk delivered to approximately 300 processing plants across Canada.

The Parliamentary Secretary told me there are 900 plants in Canada. What the producers want to know is where the Government is taking these plants—in which areas of Canada. If it is taking only one-third of all the plants, the producers want to know exactly whether this one-third will consist only of the big plants or of the plants which are giving more money to the farmers.

[Translation]

Therefore, if, for instance, the government decides to exclude all processing plants receiving cream in order to arrive at the national average, such an average will be higher and the amounts paid for compensation and the deficiency payments made after the dairy production year will be lower.

What I am asking the parliamentary secretary (Mr. Beer) is to provide us with the list of the 900 establishments or processing plants throughout Canada, including the 300 plants the department or the committee for price stabilization intends to use to establish the national average.

Another question which stems also from the minister's press release is as follows:

[English]

Thus the national average plant price will automatically include geographic location, products
[Mr. Vincent.]

manufactured, premiums for bulk tanks, quality premiums, winter bonuses, subsidized transportation and so on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. I must advise the hon. Member that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. B. S. Beer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): I wish to thank the hon. Member for bringing this important matter to the attention of the House. I wish to deal with the policy established by this Government under three main headings, first, the purpose, next, the method by which it will be achieved, and, finally, the result.

The purpose is to establish an average price of \$3.50 on manufactured milk for Canada. This will be achieved by providing a supplementary payment of 25 cents on the first 48,000 pounds produced, 20 cents on the second 48,000 pounds and 10 cents per 100 pounds on all in excess of 96,000 pounds. The average of this supplementary payment will be in the neighbourhood of 20 cents a hundred pounds across the country. In addition there will be a deficiency payment in order to establish at the plant a price for manufactured milk of approximately \$3.30. If you take a price of \$3.30 plus the supplementary payments this will establish a price of \$3.50 for manufactured milk in Canada.

It may interest hon. Members to know that in 1964 the national average price was \$3.06. The price proposed for this year will be 44 cents per hundred pounds above that figure. The average price for the five years from 1958 to 1963 was \$2.89 and the price farmers will receive in 1965 will be 61 cents per hundred pounds above that five year average.

I think that is all that need be said about the policy generally. I should like to answer some of the particular questions asked by the hon. Member. He inquired whether or not all producers will receive \$3.50. The answer is, of course, no, because we are dealing with national averages and some people will still receive a price which is probably slightly higher while others may get a price slightly below \$3.50.

● (10:10 p.m.)

The second question asked was with regard to supplementary payments being made as soon as possible. It is the hope of the Government that this will be achieved and this is one of the main reasons for the 1964 production figures being used, namely, in order that the supplementary payment may be calculated at an early date and made available to the farmers. The next question had to do with