

Now, referring to page 2 of the same publication, I find an announcement published by the federal Department of Agriculture, which refers to an average price of \$4 per cwt. of milk. Well, it is not \$4 per cwt. of milk that farmers and associations want, but a guaranteed price of \$4 per cwt. of milk. The people now sitting on the government benches are not entitled to tell the dairy industry what to do.

When we came into power and became the laughing stock of those who now form the government and base their policy on the proposals we put forward at the time, we took the required measures to give the farmers what they expected. We succeeded to a large extent and we would like this prosperity, which begun to be felt by the farmers under the Conservative government although it is marking time momentarily, to be restored. Farmers, in particular, are fed up with election promises.

● (8:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Farmers especially have had enough of election promises. They now want the *present* government to act. This is not asking too much. They want the great promises made by the Minister of Agriculture during the election campaigns to be fulfilled. It can be recalled, for instance, that the 1962, I think, election program of the Liberal party mentioned distribution of milk in the schools to promote consumption of dairy products. They who made this suggestion surely knew that this was not incumbent on them, that it came under provincial jurisdiction. Milk distribution in school is a local matter. For a reason I do not understand, they were trying then, probably to win votes, to promote this idea of milk distribution in schools.

Since this government came into office the dairy industry has been so neglected that a great number of farmers got rid—as they say—of their dairy herd, because they were afraid that the income would go on decreasing. The farmers thought: there is no use to carry on with the dairy industry, since the Liberal government does not want to help us. This is so true that today, in one parish in my riding, Ste. Madeleine for instance, many farmers got rid of their dairy herd.

The dairy production has decreased so much recently that the time is not far when we will probably have to import dairy products, especially butter.

It seems abnormal to me that in a country so well endowed as Canada, Quebec and

*Stabilization of Milk and Cream Prices*  
Ontario especially, such a situation should have developed.

Before concluding, I would simply like to ask the minister, even if this forces him to humble himself, to revise his former statements and admit that perhaps he does not have all the answers to problems, as he claimed. I urge him to get information from a former minister of agriculture who has the reputation of having been the best minister of agriculture Canada has known, I mean the member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton). I ask him to turn to his knowledge, because he is really a specialist in this field of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, for a few minutes this evening the minister dealt with crop insurance which was put on our statute books thanks to the former minister of agriculture, the member for Qu'Appelle; he referred to the ARDA act, the Agricultural Stabilization Act, all measures we owe to the member for Qu'Appelle.

I am not surprised to hear the laughter of people who have always kept away from the farming class. The member for Beauce (Mr. Racine) must know what I mean, since at one time the people from Beauce stayed away from him. I am not surprised to learn that—

**Mr. Racine:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I certainly did not have the privilege of being appointed to the cabinet during an election campaign, like the member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot.

**Mr. Ricard:** And you probably never will either, my friend. It is a title that the member can certainly not take away from me.

Then, Mr. Chairman, as the minister admitted himself, this resolution will be implemented in co-operation with the provincial authorities. We know that a change took place, even though I must open old sores for the member for Beauce and a few others from the province of Quebec, we know that a change took place in the Quebec government not so long ago and that those in office at present are aware of the problems of the farming people and will certainly resort to all their knowledge and make every effort in order to improve the farmers' situation.

As the minister and others in this house are aware, one of our former colleagues who represented the electoral district of Nicolet-Yamaska is now minister of agriculture and colonization in Mr. Johnson's cabinet, in Quebec. He is a practising farmer, who is