

Hon. Mr. Horner: I am not taking any blame.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Under the constitution of this country jurisdiction is divided between the Dominion and the provincial legislatures. The Supreme Court has found that to prohibit the manufacture of margarine in Canada is not within the jurisdiction of the federal government. Therefore it is left to the provinces to decide what they should do. I think I am in a fair position to take the stand I am taking now, because I voted on two occasions against the oleomargarine bill.

We are living in a period in which the provinces try to pass the buck to the federal government when things do not run "according to Hoyle", and I think the Dairy Council of Canada should make its complaints to the provinces. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the federal government has no jurisdiction to prohibit the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, and if the Dairy Council questions that decision it should appeal to the Privy Council. I think both my honourable friend from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner) and the Dairy Council are unduly alarmed. A few days ago in another place the government was asked what quantity of butter had been bought under the floor price, and I think the answer was that it was very little.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Two and a half million pounds.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Well, 2½ million pounds of butter is only about two days' butter supply for the whole of Canada. If my honourable friends are telling the truth about the situation in Saskatchewan, that province will not have a blade of grass to produce any butter this coming summer.

Hon. Mr. Horner: We can produce butter by feeding Russian thistle to our cattle, and the drier the weather the more Russian thistle there will be.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: If my honourable friend is going to bring prosperity to Saskatchewan with Russian thistle, he does not know as much about Russian thistle as I do.

Hon. Mr. Horner: The wise farmers are going to hang on to their cattle by feeding them Russian thistle. That is what I mean.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Let the Dairy Council make their representations to the provinces. If they do not approve of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, they can appeal to the Privy Council for final judgment.

Hon. Mr. Horner: The federal government could prohibit the importation of fats and oils. They are good at prohibiting.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: My honourable friend knows better than I do that Canada can produce enough fats and oils for the manufacture of oleomargarine. In my part of the country we grow sunflower seed, rapeseed, soy-bean and so forth. We can produce sufficient fats and oils to produce oleomargarine.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Why have we imported \$95 million worth of oils then?

Hon. Mr. Kinley: Honourable senators, if we have to depend on the oils produced in Canada to manufacture oleomargarine I do not think we will have to worry. The thing to be feared is the importation of oils in tank freighters from countries where half-naked men run up coconut trees, pull down the coconuts and extract the oil. I am not in favour of putting the Canadian farmers in competition with this kind of labour. The Dairy Council in good faith should have appealed the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada which was divided in its opinion. My complaint today is that when I go into eating places I am served with margarine instead of butter. Eating places charge high enough prices to be able to afford to furnish their customers with butter. There is no protection for the eating public of Canada against this imposition.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: There is nobody in this chamber for whom I have a greater liking than my honourable friend from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner), but I must confess that I do not know what caused his remarks. Under the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada the regulation of the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine lies wholly within the jurisdiction of the provinces. It is quite true that the federal government could restrict imports by raising duties on imported fats and oils to a prohibitive level.

Hon. Mr. Kinley: It is done in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: I cannot see why my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Horner) has brought up this question. Perhaps it is because we are approaching an election—

Hon. Mr. Horner: Oh, no.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: —and the old war-horse is eager to get into action.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Being an old politician himself, I can understand my honourable friend thinking so.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: All jesting aside, it is quite beyond my imagination why anyone