

*Dairy Industry Act*

Mr. SANDERSON: Has the minister received any request for this legislation from the National Dairy Council?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have not before me the names of those who made requests that there should be changes but from time to time requests have been made that the definitions should be changed to be brought in line with modern practices. One of the problems to be dealt with is the tendency to produce an article containing no animal or milk fat. It was to widen these definitions that this change has been made.

Mr. SANDERSON: There is so much confusion in the chamber that it is very difficult to hear and I am not just clear as to what the minister answered. I asked him if any request for this proposed legislation had been received from the National Dairy Council.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I could not say but I would say that requests have been received from branches of the dairy industry. As the National Dairy Council is supposed to be representative of the whole industry, I think it is immaterial whether or not we have received a request from that organization.

Mr. SANDERSON: Just what does the minister mean? Does his answer take in any particular province or all provinces? For instance what requests did he receive from Ontario?

Mr. CASGRAIN: And Quebec?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): As I have stated a number of times, I have not before me a specific list of the different bodies that made requests for this change. The changes proposed here have all been made after consultation with the producers' organizations, with the National Dairy Council, with the cooperative creameries and with others engaged in the dairy industry.

Mr. SANDERSON: Will the minister bring before the committee all the requests that have been received either by himself or by his department?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I shall be glad to supply the hon. member with the information, but it will be impossible to get it this afternoon.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am aware of that.

Mr. CASGRAIN: It is very kind of the minister to say that he will bring down these requests, because I was going to ask for them myself. In our province there is an organization known as La Société de l'Industrie Laitière, which a few years ago held a large

[Mr. Bouchard.]

convention in my county, and these people are very much interested in any bill of such wide scope as the one before us now. The minister told us that this bill was being introduced in order to meet the requests of the dairy industry, and he has intimated that certain statements have been received from those persons at the end of the industry. I should like to have these reports, because this is the committee of the whole house; it is not the committee on agriculture, before whom specialists in the dairy industry and in matters of that sort affecting the dairy council have the right to be heard, and where members may comment on statements made by people who are better versed in the industry. It would be very interesting, I am sure, to all the members of this committee, and certainly to myself to have these comments made so that we might find out whether the provisions contemplated in the bill are really of such a nature as to assist the dairy industry and, I would add, the consumer. Will the minister tell us what will be the effect of all these amendments that are now proposed. It is very important to know whether they are in the interests of the dairy industry and whether at the same time the consumer will benefit.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have no hesitation in saying that it will be of benefit to the dairy industry, the dairy producers particularly, and also to the consumer, because it will enable the consumer to know that he is getting what he believes he is buying when he purchases a product.

Mr. DUPUIS: When the minister uses the term dairy industry, does it include such concerns as Borden's milk, and distributors in the large centres? Are they among those who have asked for the amendments?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Everybody did not ask for it; the request came chiefly from representatives of producers.

Mr. DUPUIS: Yes, but could the minister tell me whether Borden's milk was among those making the request?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I cannot tell the hon. gentleman.

Mr. DUPUIS: Can the minister tell me after looking into the question?

Mr. BOUCHARD: Will the minister agree to my suggestion and allow this clause to stand until we have studied the bill further? We could revert to it later on.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Carried.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.