

claiming at least \$9 a hundred pounds of milk we were admitting that the dairy industry still made no profits but hoped that the production cost would decrease during the coming year. In committee the minister stated recently that he hoped those production costs would diminish; nothing is less sure and from this lack of assurance I must say that I am still concerned about this industry's future even though the statement of this morning leaves hope for an improved situation and is no warranty for the future of the dairy industry which had already outlined its absolutely basic requirements.

I hope that the hon. minister, when he says he wants to inject confidence into the dairy industry will be able to suggest long-term rather than short-term measures which will guarantee an absolute minimum for the survival of the Canadian dairy industry.

Our party did not hesitate to agree with the demands of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. We will wait and continue to demand at least the minimum which the dairy farmers absolutely need.

● (1120)

[English]

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, the most hopeful part of the minister's statement is the declared intention of the minister and the government to review dairy policy in Canada. I hope this means that they are prepared to review the basic objectives and approach to dairy policy in Canada because that is what we need.

At the time the Canadian Dairy Commission was created the dairy industry was facing depressed prices. The Canadian Dairy Commission at the beginning followed a policy of creating larger units and actually restricting production. What we need now is a policy to expand production because we are short of butter and short of cheese. We need expanded production. Perhaps the increased prices set out in this announcement, will bring this about in the short term, but in the long term we need to look at production for use as well as for profit.

One point that needs to be examined, I suggest, is the cost of quotas and the practice that has evolved that when a man wants to get into the business he has to buy his way in. We need to ensure that it is not going to be too expensive for a dairyman to get into the business or to get additional quotas. This practice should be abandoned or at least a ceiling should be established or some other means found to discourage it. It is a capital cost which has to be passed on to the consumer once it is built into the industry.

I hope that somewhere along the line we will introduce a school milk program as part of the over-all program in the dairy industry. We not only need to produce milk but we also need to ensure that everybody has access to milk, the best protein food that we produce in Canada, and also cheese. I hope the government will ensure that it is available to everybody, starting at the school level. That is the purpose of production.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, the new government dairy policy had been expected for a

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very long time by farmers and farm workers across this country.

With the galloping inflation we now have farmers have ever-increasing costs to support. So I feel that even if it does not solve all the problems the new dairy policy will at least put a little balm over the wounds. Perhaps it might encourage farmers to stay on the farms provided however this government recognizes the principle of escalating grants on par with the increase in production and the cost of living.

The minister said producers of industrial milk will get in all \$8.50 per hundredweight. We know it now costs even more to produce it, about \$10.15 per hundredweight, while producers will get \$8.50. So I find the profit margin is not very great. If the government wants to collect taxes from farmers it might consider allowing them to make a greater profit.

I now insist on escalation because I think that with the rapid increase in production costs it will be too late on April 1, 1975, to reassess the government dairy policy. The minister must absolutely stop introducing new policies once a year to provide for escalation with production costs as perhaps with old age security pensions. This way farmers would be less prompted to feel discouraged. I know that in the riding of Drummond in particular auctioneers are now booked up to the month of August because there are so many farmers who want to leave their farms. In concluding my remarks I would like to encourage farmers to continue their work.

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[English]

RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES COMMISSION

FILLING OF VACANCIES IN MEMBERSHIP—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to seek the consent of the House under Standing Order 43 to move a motion to deal with the deplorable circumstances in the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, renewed evidence of which can be found in today's press. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis):

That this House direct the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs immediately to make appointments to bring the membership of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission up to its full complement.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member. It requires the unanimous consent of the House under the terms of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The motion cannot be put.