

Supply

made in referring to farmers elsewhere in Canada. It is not at all helpful to debate, and he should be ashamed of making this allegation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I have here an article from *Le Droit* the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell is described as “a lion transformed into a mouse”.

If farmers had been attacked, or struck, or knocked about when he was a member of the Opposition, the Liberal Party whip would have made the exact same speech as the one he just gave, but in reverse. Here it says that the member from the other side is inflexible in the area of agriculture, he refuses any measure affecting the farmers who make up a good portion of his constituency, including Réjean Pommerville.

I have here a paper, *Farm and Country*, which is the equivalent of our *La terre de chez nous* in Quebec. It says this measure will cost farmers \$56 per head of cattle. You heard me right, \$56 per head of cattle. Farmers in his riding have 60 head of cattle each on average, and Réjean Pommerville has 75. Multiply these figures by 56 and you will reduce the deficit that the Liberals, among others, have generated year after year since 1970.

I have here notes from the press conference held last week by the president of the UPA, the Quebec Union des producteurs agricoles.

He spoke about the subsidy for industrial milk. I suggest my colleague, the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, phone the UPA and get information on this. I will gladly give him the number if need be, like he did two weeks ago on Sunday when he gave us a phone number where the information given was exactly the opposite.

• (1315)

The UPA's notes say this: \$5.43 by hectolitre, a 30 per cent cut over two years; I am honest, I say it. This does not represent 80 cents or even 90 cents. I would invite him to do the calculation: \$5.43 multiplied by 0.3 represent a \$1.51 reduction by hectolitre.

So, if a farmer has a quota of 2,500 hectolitres, it means a contribution of \$3,775 to the reduction of the deficit that the member himself helped to create and, on top of that, he is cutting the transport subsidy for feed, which is estimated at \$10 per ton. If this farmer buys 71 tons to feed his cows that will produce 2,500 hectolitres, he will have to contribute \$710 more.

So, for the farmers in Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, the average contribution is \$4,485. The lion, the member of the rat pack who got to be well known while in the opposition has become a mouse. He should go and meet the people from the UPA, he should visit the live animals auction houses to see the big disappointment that the Liberal budget has created throughout Quebec and throughout rural Canada.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the member opposite for quoting the hon. member for Prince Edward—Hastings. In fact, his quote from *Farm and Country* is of a statement by the member for Prince Edward—Hastings. However, he forgot half the sentence. The hon. member for Prince Edward—Hastings did say: “It is true, 80 cents a hectolitre multiplied by 70 hectolitres comes out to \$56 a cow”. This is true. That is supposing that all of the milk of the producer in question is industrial milk. As the average is usually 50–50, the figures of the hon. member opposite are twice as high as they should be.

I would like in addition, if I may, to talk about the matter of the Coopérative Avicole de St-Isidore. We spoke of the cooperative and of what the Coopérative Avicole de St-Isidore had said. I quote from a letter dated March 27, 1995 to Mr. Don Boudria, written on the Coopérative Avicole de St-Isidore letterhead. I will read the rest and will be pleased to table this in the House: “Due to the rail strike, we no longer benefit from the price guaranteed by the railways. We are forced to buy at market prices, which are 20 per cent higher, thus increasing our production costs. I hope you will be able to remedy the situation. Yours truly, Alain Léger.”

This is dated March 27, 1995, that is, last Monday. I therefore say to the hon. member opposite that I have proof in hand that the price of soya was up 20 per cent. If he feels he has evidence to the contrary, he should table it. But of course he has none.

No one celebrates when subsidies are upset, and one sector or another in our society loses revenues. Granted, no one is celebrating, but the cuts were made fairly and equitably by an honest government wishing to do the best possible for Canadians, whether they live in Quebec or elsewhere.

The only thing I find lacking in the speeches by the hon. members opposite is the fact that they did not check with head office. I realize they are just a branch in Ottawa, but cuts were made in Quebec to subsidies and services to the agricultural sector, particularly in research. The hon. members opposite have unfortunately forgotten this.

[English]

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to take part in the debate today.

• (1320)

I would like to make a few comments at the outset to continue where my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell left off.

I had the opportunity and the privilege yesterday to spend most of the day in the riding of Beauharnois—Salaberry, where I met with 125 or 130 dairy farmers for a couple of hours after lunch. During that time I spoke to them about what we had done in the budget as far as agriculture is concerned. We talked about the WGTA and the effects of that. I spoke about the changes to the federal support for the industrial milk program. One gentle-