

sure we can work out a delivery system not just in this area but indeed in many other areas.

I think the government should have as a principle and policy the maximization of food. The food in this country we cannot use must be channeled into a world food program for those people who need it. If we do not start doing some of those things, we will have in a few years, certainly within my lifetime, a very real food crisis in this world when thousands and thousands of people will be dying like flies because of the shortage of food. Much of that could be prevented because we have the land and all we need is a proper land use policy. We also have the technology and the wealth. It is a matter of nations sitting down and devising the proper type of world food policy.

● (1750)

We only have to look at some of the statistics in our country to know that we have a food crisis of sorts in Canada. I have the report of the Food Prices Review Board of February, 1975. I find in it, for example, that many Canadians are suffering from lack of proper nutrition. I will use the example of a calcium deficiency in the population. On page 8 of the report it is stated that approximately 70 per cent, perhaps 72 per cent, of people over the age of 65 in Canada suffer from a calcium deficiency. Of males between the ages of 10 and 19, young people in public schools and high schools, 55 per cent are suffering from calcium deficiency, and of females between the ages of 10 and 19 some 57 per cent are suffering from a calcium deficiency.

These statistics are available, and are only the tip of the iceberg. I think it is incumbent upon the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Agriculture to look at this problem, to exhibit some leadership with the provinces toward establishing a proper food program in this country, not just for school children but indeed for all Canadians. One way of starting that would be to reinstate the 5 cent per quart consumer subsidy for milk because there is a correlation between the price of milk and consumer demand. That subsidy should be reinstated and the price of milk lowered in the country, and then I am sure that most of the milk would be sold and Canadians would be healthy. Mr. Speaker, I notice the clock. I would like to go on but I will stop now out of courtesy to my friend, the hon. member for Battle River.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, one of the things that will be obvious is that far more problems will be left at the end of the time allotted to us than we have had time to deal with today.

I should like to thank the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) for bringing forward the motion, and the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) for relinquishing some of his time to me.

It has often been said that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) is a great guy, and you could recognize that most often in the speeches delivered by him. As might be pointed out by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp), there is nothing illegal about that. But I would like to say to the minister that I hope this day he will pay enough attention to a problem on which I want to comment relating to the dairy industry, which affects my area in the

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province of Alberta quite significantly. Perhaps some of his department officials could pay special attention to it. It relates to how the dairy industry associates with the beef industry.

In the western provinces at present beef prices are severely depressed. One farmer told me recently he had the good fortune to have had his herd suffer from a disease as a result of which his animals died, and therefore he failed to incur the \$20 a head loss which he would have had normally for raising them. The problem has to do with animal feed replacer products which have become so expensive that in many parts in the western provinces today young calves are simply being killed so that farmers do not incur the expense of feeding them high cost feeds. On the one hand the situation is that the milk replacers for animal food supplements have become so expensive that livestock is being killed, while on the other hand the Minister of Agriculture—

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Malone: Just a second, I hope the minister is not trying to intervene.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont): Order. The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

[*English*]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important point because again we are being misinformed. Anybody feeding calves today on calf replacers is making money feeding calves.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont): Sorry, Mr. Minister. The hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Malone).

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Malone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe that will warm us up a little. We know the minister is putting food into foreign markets at 14 cents a pound. The fact is that bringing it in from eastern Canada to western Canada is simply not viable at present. If the minister checked the record he would know he is doing a disservice to the western provinces by failing to take milk products from the east to the west where there is definitely a market for them.

The second thing that I would like to put on the record for the Minister of Agriculture is that he has failed to recognize the law in terms of the import of milk products into this country because, as we have pointed out to him, it has been illegal for some time to bring the dry milk product from the U.S. into Canada when it has milk content of over 40 per cent. That has been ignored for over a year, and it is causing serious concern among those who are producing animal food supplements.

I think the minister might well pay more attention to the fact that there is a large market in this country for surplus whey, and for surplus dried milk products, a fact which is not being considered or investigated by the Minister of Agriculture. I think it is high time he recognized that what he is doing is in effect forcing the price of animal food