

*Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board
[Translation]*

AGRICULTURE

MILK—REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN SUBSIDY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture. Has he received any representations from Canadian dairy farmers requesting that the direct grant on manufacturing milk be raised to \$1.40 a hundred-weight, which would guarantee a price of \$5.00 per hundredweight of milk with a 3.5 per cent butterfat content, and has he given an affirmative answer to such request?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the federal dairy policy will be announced before April 1.

[English]

IMMIGRATION

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEAL BOARD

The house resumed, from Monday, February 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Marchand for the second reading of Bill No. C-220, to make provision for appeals to an immigration appeal board in respect of certain matters relating to immigration.

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, when the house rose last evening I had just commented upon the significance of the changes in immigration procedure and administration represented by this bill. That drastic changes are needed, I have no doubt. In no department of government is a minister subjected to so much paper work or called upon to exercise so many discretions or subjected to so many pressures—pressures from members of parliament, from candidates, from ethnic groups, from religious and philanthropic organizations and just about everyone conceivable. The very volume of paper work, the incredible amount of time a minister of immigration must spend examining individual files in order to exercise wisely the discretions vested in him, actually deprives him of an adequate amount of working time for the consideration of policy, major issues and promotional activities which are the real prerogative and responsibility of the minister.

Indeed, I believe it is arguable that the system which has been built up compels the minister and the deputy minister to spend so much of their time contemplating the trees that they are unable to see the policy forest, and therein lies much of the difficulty the

[Mr. Benson.]

department has experienced. My hope is that this measure will succeed in relieving the minister and the deputy minister of much of the tedium of labouring over great mountains of individual files, and will enable them to devote their thought and attention to policy matters and to the greatly needed expansion of immigration into Canada.

I believe, as I have said in this house many times, that our whole immigration policy needs to be much bolder; that there needs to be much more original thinking than is represented in the white paper. If Canada is to achieve her potential in this century a much more aggressive, a much more dynamic immigration policy is essential, something which goes much beyond the feeble and halting steps of the white paper.

Personally I believe the present minister has the imagination to conceive and execute such a policy if he were given the leisure and opportunity. However, he has been loaded with the additional responsibility of acting as Quebec leader of his party. The result inevitably will be that he simply will not have the time to attend to his immigration knitting. I do not believe the immigration portfolio can be a part time occupation.

Now, sir, last night the parliamentary secretary painted a rather glowing picture of the potential benefit of the proposed immigration appeal board. We can hope his expectations will be realized. The existing immigration appeal board is without real status or authority. Its terms of reference are so restricted that it is little more than a respectable front for the department, if indeed it is that. It can deal only with questions of law, and it is safe to say that with the sweeping powers vested in the department errors of law inevitably are rare.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member and I apologize for doing so, but the conversations going on make it practically impossible for the Chair to hear what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): As I have said, sir, I believe it is safe to say that with the sweeping powers vested in the department errors of law inevitably are rare. The existing board has no discretionary authority. The moment the board finds the department has acted within the law it has no alternative but to dismiss the appeal. I know this is a frustrating experience for members of the board, particularly since the members of the board