

Supply

could result in an investment of \$70 million by the end of this century. This will help offset the reductions and ensure that money is spent where industry can best use it.

I would like to conclude by re-emphasizing that we are committed to maintaining food safety as the priority of the inspection system while reducing overlap and duplication; levelling the playing field for Canadian producers by ensuring better border controls; and sharing the cost of services which provide a private benefit to industry. We also remain committed to ensuring a safe critical mass of research and technology transfer dedicated to the safety of our food supply and the sustainability of our agricultural resource base.

As I represent the people of Guelph—Wellington, all important contributors to our food chain, I express our support for these initiatives. I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for ensuring that while funding is reduced, our guiding principles will never be compromised.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Guelph—Wellington is lucky, because she can count on the university bearing the same name as her riding. The federal government and several para-public organizations contribute considerable research budgets to the university in her riding.

Members will agree however that not all ridings can boast such fine universities as the University of Guelph unfortunately. It has put a lot of emphasis on research. I picked a year at random from my notes on federal government spending, and came up with the research spending of the Department of Agriculture in 1990. I will give you a few figures and I invite you to reflect on them.

The federal government spent almost half of its farming research budget in the grain sector, some \$111 million. Of course, friends out west are not complaining. One hundred and eleven million dollars, close to one half. But the grain sector only produces six per cent of Canada's farming outputs. In the same year, 24 per cent of the federal government's agricultural research budget went to the dairy, poultry and hog sectors.

• (1545)

And it so happens that hog, poultry and dairy producers are concentrated in Quebec and, of course, in Ontario.

I, myself, am a farmer and a member of the UPA. I know many other farmers. I spent all of last Saturday going up and down the concessions visiting farmers and it is funny but I did not meet a single one who applauded the Liberal government's budget, especially regarding farming issues. Not one.

Last Monday, I was at the Lafaille auction in Coaticook. Over one hundred farmers were there. I asked some questions. They were obviously proud to see that one of their own made it to Ottawa to defend their interests. None of them were happy. Not one.

So in Ontario, out of 99—sorry, 98 Liberal ridings, one slipped out of their grasp and went to a Reform friend—the general protest reminds me of what happened in Quebec in the 1970s, when the only person even remotely capable of playing the role of the opposition was Roch LaSalle.

The UPA and the Association des producteurs laitiers have literally come out swinging against this budget. Now I will discuss an article written by Claude Rivard and will ask the hon. member for Guelph—Wellington to comment on it. In a newspaper article on dairy producers in Quebec, published in March 1995, Mr. Rivard talks about the federal government's intention to withdraw altogether from programs in the areas of dairy control and genetic testing. That is some major research. Her government is backing out and she is happy with the research done. My foot.

[*English*]

Mrs. Chamberlain: Madam Speaker, the member for Frontenac began by talking about how lucky I am as the member for Guelph—Wellington. He is quite right, I am. However, we are all lucky to live in this wonderful country. I would like to put that on the record.

The member for Frontenac wanted to talk about research and development. The federal government will be maintaining excellent research infrastructure in Quebec which will have four of the national centres of excellence; Lennoxville, Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Saint-Croix. We will transfer 53 research positions from the national capital region to these centres, enabling our scientists to concentrate on research areas of high priority to Quebec producers and processors as well as to producers across eastern Canada and the whole country.

We are all lucky to live in Canada and to enjoy the support of the federal government, including Quebec.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but her time has expired. Resuming debate. The hon. member for Matapédia—Matane.

Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane, BQ): Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my colleague, the hon. member for Frontenac, for putting forward this opposition motion on agriculture. This is an extremely important day for all farmers in Quebec and across Canada.