

Over the same ten-year period, the price of milk doubled only. At such a rate, those who are still producing industrial milk are no longer doing production work, but missionary work to feed the people at any cost. Industrial milk producers are not fools, far from that. They may have more sense than most members here. One day one of them will get up in the morning, sit down with his good wife and solemnly say, somewhat bitterly: "Well, that is the end of it! We sell everything." And then we are less another producer. Everybody will agree on that. Some might say: "Well, he will sell to another producer". And again: "What can be gotten out of it with another producer?" Even if he can sell his farm to someone who will go on producing industrial milk, milk production on the farm will decrease by 50 per cent. That is automatic. And I can prove it. Those are important explanations to give to the House in order that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) may act accordingly. With a new owner there is a 50 per cent drop in production. Where the former owner produced one ton of milk per day, three or five years later, the new owner will be producing half a ton only, for a number of reasons, due to inexperienced help or simply because of milking procedure changes, different grazing quality, or "commuting" cows from one field to another, which directly affects the volume of milk given by the cows, etc. Such are the facts, they cannot be ignored. When the day comes when we have to pay butter at \$1.50 a pound, milk at 70 cents a quart, meat at \$2.00 a pound and when we have to depend more and more on imports from other countries to feed Canada, when farmers are deliberately strangled, then it will be too late for the government to recognize its errors. They will have what they asked for. I introduced the motion in order to put a stop to that situation, to protect industrial milk producers in view of the seriousness of the present situation. I therefore ask for this House's attention, and the non-partisan cooperation of every member and minister, so that the motion be agreed to and that the proposed review may be conducted, in order to save our dairy industry if it is not too late. I am not trying to act smart but I wish to draw the attention of the government to this problem, so that in the future there will be still farmers left on our farms and we can be sure to eat three times a day fresh produce of our land, which have been grown by our gallant and courageous brothers, the Canadian farmers.

● (1620)

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me give the government a bit of advice. At present, the government through the board of officials from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce imports, every year, 50 million pounds of cheese, as well as eggs, beef and porks, from the United States or other countries, with the Department of Agriculture or its Minister having no say in the matter. The importation of any farm product from any country should come under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Department, therefore that of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. Working in cooperation with Growers' Association and Farm product Marketing Boards he is familiar with the problems, the costs of production in each field, the Canadian consumers' needs and the amount of production which should be encouraged through subsidies or other means.

Milk Producers

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, when we come back here in the Fall, after the summer recess which, in my view, all members really deserve, I would like the government to introduce a bill which would allow or enable one department only, namely the Department of Agriculture, to control the exportation and importation of agricultural products. This would have the effect of guaranteeing a sufficient output for the consumer, as well as a fair price to the producer, so that we may plan a long-term policy with a view to setting prices on the basis of production costs, so that our farmers take heart and remain in the farming business and that the young people who will become the farmers of tomorrow be assured of a decent living.

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), I should like to clear up the situation with regard to the dairy policy. All of us have long since recognized the importance and special character of the dairy industry in Canadian agriculture. Last year, the dairy industry accounted for 15.5 per cent of agricultural revenues. These figures do not take into account everything that milk and its by products represent for the other sectors of our economy. As in several other countries, the Canadian dairy industry operates under a price control system. As a result, the government has resorted to different ways of controlling production. Our programs have had great influence on dairy production and on the decisions of dairy producers. The latter want to obtain adequate guarantees as to the stability of their production so as to be able to make the investments required by modern and viable dairy enterprises. Indeed the government has adopted measures to give such guarantees. One of the objectives of the dairy policy is precisely to guarantee milk producers adequate income. Thus, we hope to witness the disappearance of the climate of uncertainty caused by the recent period of rapid increases in production costs.

Please allow me to repeat certain statements made by the Minister of Agriculture last April 18 before representatives of the dairy industry. Mr. Whelan had then announced a new formula for the adjustment of milk prices, which enabled to adjust the income of dairy producers. This formula takes into account production costs, and the remuneration of the producer and of the family manpower. The formula was developed as a result of several studies and discussions between the people concerned.

In April 1974, the Canadian Dairy Commission was authorized to meet the producers' associations and develop a program to achieve better balance between production costs and income. As a result, the Commission held a series of most useful meetings with representatives of the industry, whose recommendations were included in the new policy.

On November 29 last, the minister met the representatives of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. They presented him with a brief which was also used in developing a formula for the readjustment of prices. The members of the Canadian Dairy Commission, the representatives of the producers and the officials of the department worked hard, together, in an effort to find a sound formula. It may