

Stabilization of Milk and Cream Prices

help in the area of marketing which, to be effective, must have a federal complement to any provincial jurisdiction. We hope and believe that this measure will provide that, with respect to the dairy industry.

• (8:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, aware of the urgent needs of the farmers, we on this side of the house will not do anything to delay the earliest possible implementation of the legislation now before us.

I shall consequently keep my remarks down to a minimum so that consideration of this legislation is not delayed.

The minister told us that this was something new. At last, after waiting two and a half or three years, the present government promises something new. But, in introducing the legislation he calls new, it seems that the minister is relying upon numerous legislation and measures that have been adopted and put to the test by the former government. We are very happy to note that the present government in order to achieve something, must rely upon the work done by the preceding administration.

We have also heard the minister tell us that this legislation was becoming urgent due to the fact that cost of production by the farmer is constantly on the increase, thus putting him in a very difficult situation. Unless I am mistaken, we have been telling that for at least three years, to the present minister as well as to his predecessor who claimed that sufficient income could be derived from six cows and two hogs, in the province of Quebec and in eastern Canada to ensure the livelihood of a family.

However, we on this side of the house know quite well the problems, the needs of the farming community and, while we were in office, we tried to give the farmers their just share of the national income. The present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) does have to go very far if he wants to find out exactly what the eastern farmers thought of the Conservative team. He has only to visit one or two concessions, and there is no doubt that he will find out through his conversations with the farmers that we took the necessary steps to get the farmer to a degree of prosperity which was not only for his own good but also for the general good.

And since the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) seems a little worried or seems to disagree with what I am saying, I suggest to the Minister of Agriculture to take him along

[Mr. Greene.]

because it will certainly do him a lot of good to find out the truth.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has the floor seems to insinuate that I made some allusion to his remarks. All I said to the Minister of Agriculture is that in spite of the seriousness of the matter, the hon. member could not refrain from indulging in petty politics.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I am always surprised to hear those sacrosanct people like the Minister of Fisheries make such statements because he, for one, cannot open his mouth without going in for petty politics. Therefore, if he only had the decency to listen to what is said, he might be able to refrain for indulging in petty politics when he gets the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman, while discussing the steps taken by the present government to try to help the farming community I cannot but see things as they are, and I think that *La Terre de Chez Nous*, a publication which is essentially concerned with farming, does not indulge in petty politics. However, I have here the issue of June 15, 1966, and on page 5, I see the following title:

Ottawa's dairy policy is unsatisfactory and unfair.

Mr. Chairman, may I point out to the Minister of Fisheries that all I am trying to say is that the farm policy of the present government is not realistic and, moreover, according to a publication which has expert knowledge of farming, the policy of the present government is unfair and unsatisfactory.

And since I have this opportunity, I should like to read into the record part of a telegram recently sent to the Minister of Agriculture by the executive committee of the C.F.U., and I quote:

C.F.U. executive committee considers present Ottawa policy clearly inadequate since it will not guarantee selling price of \$4 per cwt. for all industrial milk and particularly unfair for large groups of producers, such as cream shippers, producers whose milk is processed into powder by cylinder process or into casein, etc—

I am not quoting my own words, but a newspaper representing opinion of the farmers in the province of Quebec.

And further this communication says:

Under circumstances, C.F.U. executive committee decided to inform and alert all Quebec farmers and their district and local organizations, who will advise necessary means to obtain satisfaction, i.e. the guarantee of \$4 per cwt., from Ottawa government for all industrial milk—