

Dairy Products—Subsidies

Mr. GRAYDON: I should like to be clear on the point, because when the question was asked the minister did not demur, and I took it for granted that some member of the government would answer. It is an important matter, and it was my understanding the government had given its undertaking that it would be done.

Mr. MacKINNON: I am informed the Department of External Affairs has the information in the course of preparation, and that it will be given to the house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I believe I can promise that that will be done.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

SUBSIDIES

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I should like to reply to a question asked yesterday by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) respecting milk subsidies. An order in council was passed to-day making the subsidies continuous as of midnight to-night on the same basis as for the past year.

Mr. HOMUTH: For how long?

Mr. GARDINER: The order in council reads that it shall be for the year beginning April 1, 1946.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): The minister has referred to subsidies on milk. My question of yesterday was wider than that; it referred to dairy products. Has the government taken action with respect to other dairy products?

Mr. GARDINER: The subsidies on dairy products are on milk. That is, there is a subsidy of so much on milk entering into cheese production, a subsidy of so much on butterfat entering into butter production, and a subsidy of so much on whole milk and canned milk, thereby covering the whole list of dairy products. It is that which has been dealt with in the order in council. It covers the whole list.

Mr. BRACKEN: And the subsidies are the same as in the past.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, the subsidies on production are the same as in the past.

PRIVATE BILLS

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

Mr. W. E. HARRIS (Grey-Bruce) moved the first reading of bill No. 30 (from the senate) to amend the act incorporating the National Council of Women of Canada.

[Mr. MacKinnon.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. HARRIS (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, the National Council of Women of Canada was incorporated in 1914, and in the past thirty-two years, by expanding its activities, has advanced the objects of that association. It now wishes to bring its act of incorporation up to date, to agree with the practices which have been invoked for some time.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 37, for the relief of Marie Evelyn Dormer.—Mr. Boucher.

Bill No. 48, for the relief of Margaret Ruth Weir Allan.—Mr. Boucher.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL OF
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. J. BENTLEY (Swift Current): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice. In view of the desire of Canadians for a fair and democratic trial of a Canadian member of parliament accused of a serious offence, and the desirability of the accused's having legal counsel agreeable to himself—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member is not supposed to make a statement or to give information to the house when asking a question. If he has a question it should be brief and to the point.

Mr. BENTLEY: —will the minister consider setting the date of the trial at a time when Mr. D. N. Pritt, K.C., a member of parliament of Great Britain, can be present to represent the accused Canadian member of parliament?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. The member of parliament referred to in the question having been committed for trial, the attorney general for the province in which the committal took place now has full legal control of the case. All the federal minister of justice could do, if he were so inclined, would be to ask the provincial minister if he would agree to a postponement. I must say, however, that I am not disposed to interfere with the course of the proceedings before the courts. Moreover I do not feel that the presence of Mr. Pritt is necessary to