

Interim Supply

Agriculture should be interested in it, and particularly the Minister of Transport.

Some time ago the Department of Transport issued a regulation and recently the Air Transport Board issued a circular based on it. Under the regulation these machines are not permitted to fly over a radius greater than 25 miles. Any man with one of these machines does not spray just his own crop; he does custom work. It is similar to the old threshing machine in the west, which threshed different crops.

The people who own these machines have a big investment in them and they should not be hindered from doing custom work. Now they are going to be put out of business or seriously curtailed because of the restrictions placed upon them by the Air Transport Board. I do not think that was the intention of the Minister of Transport, and it certainly would not be the intention of the Minister of Industry or of the Minister of Agriculture. I ask that action be taken by these three ministers to look into this problem immediately and take the matter up with Mr. Westersund of Blackie, Alberta. He is a darned good Liberal, but he is a man who has always stood behind me and co-operated with me. I like him, and I got a telegram from him this morning about this matter. He is the executive secretary of the Flying Farmers Association at Blackie, Alberta.

I am talking not only for this organization at Blackie but also for the one organized at Vulcan. I hope the three ministers will look into this problem and will take up with the Air Transport Board to see if they can get these stupid rules and regulations eliminated, and let these people operate this new spraying business without government red tape.

Mr. Johnston: I would like to intervene briefly in this debate to state some arguments on behalf of the dairy farmers of British Columbia.

The debate has been interrupted by the introduction of one or two other topics. I really do not think that the hon. member for York-Humber interrupted the discussion of the dairy policy. Certainly he poured a great quantity of cold skim milk over the members of his own party. When his time was up, in perhaps what could be characterized as true Liberal policy, they decided he had had his quota and they cut off his subsidy.

The question of the new national dairy policy and the dairy industry in British Columbia is a most urgent one. The bargaining system in the industry there is one which is unique in Canada. I am sure it will defy all the ability of the minister, his officials, the officials of the provincial government and the minister there, to separate the fluid milk producer from the commercial milk producer in any way that will make sense or be of any assistance to the industry in that province.

I should like to point out the breakdown in respect of the subsidy figures by province for last year. I note that in Quebec \$33,208,000 was paid in terms of federal payment. In Ontario the amount was \$22,429,000 and in British Columbia \$1,054,000. The policy which has been announced is one which was designed with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec in mind, not particularly the province of British Columbia. If the policy is to be implemented as announced, I should think that this year the subsidy for British Columbia will be less than it was last year. Yet, this is a province in which the agricultural problems are great. This is a high cost province. Particularly in respect of the cost of labour, the farmer of British Columbia faces a problem which is greater than that faced by the farmers in other provinces.

I should like to draw to the attention of the minister and all hon. members a series of papers which we have received recently in respect of a national food and farm price policy from the Farm Conference Week, University of Manitoba. This is a very useful set of papers and provides a great deal of important information for anyone who is interested in either food prices or agricultural policy. In the paper, by Mr. C. Gilson of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Manitoba, the case for increasing farm production is put very very well. It speaks in terms of encouraging efficiency in the industry, in terms of Canadian farmers being dependent on international markets for the sale of their products, and mentions the importance of efficiency in terms of the world food supply where no nation, Canada included, can lag when the world situation in that regard is so precarious. He goes on to say that food consumers can rightfully expect farmers to produce efficiently. I believe, however, that the efficient farmer should expect reasonable compensation for his efforts. He says that a farm price policy should not penalize the farm innovator, the pace setter, the man who is willing to spend the time and take the risks