

*Milk Subsidies*

ue to decline, total production continues to decline and an industry that contributes so much to the economy and health of a nation continues to suffer needless neglect. I earnestly request the minister, on behalf of all Canadian producers and consumers, to hasten his pace on the government's long term dairy policy so as to avoid, in the not too distant future, a similar situation in the dairy industry as happened in the sugar beet industry in southwestern Ontario.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has reacted to the allegations of farmers who have been requesting a considerable increase in the price of industrial milk. In fact, the province of Quebec recommended a price close to \$12, Ontario slightly less, and the minister reacted by increasing the basic price to \$10.02.

I am surprised that the minister is now talking of an indexing formula when no agreement has been arrived at on what the basic price should be and there have been no indications of the intentions of the government with regard to developing that initial price nor consideration of the effect on consumer products.

The minister has said that by increasing the industrial milk price we are trying to establish a relationship between margarine and butter. I think it is a disgrace to this country to find that farmers receive less for butter than Canada Packers receive for margarine.

As the hon. member who spoke on behalf of the Conservative Party said, an agricultural committee will have to give deep and serious consideration to what we want to accomplish through our industrial milk production. The fact that we are importing butter and cheese to a larger degree than we are manufacturing them, and the fact that many of our farmers are going out of business and are faced with deciding whether to sell their herds and hay and grain or stay in business, are matters for very serious consideration. The minister has only mildly reacted to the demands being made by the farmers. I hope the minister is prepared to consider long-term difficulties facing Canadian farmers so that the industrial milk producer can receive an equitable price for his milk and the consumer can pay a fair and reasonable price.

The increases which the minister has provided for are smaller than necessary to keep farmers in business, and he knows it. It is essential for us to establish what are the price relationships between dairy products and other consumer goods, to enable farmers to make long-range forecasts and enable them to stay in the dairy industry. That industry is not one which farmers can enter or leave quickly. If large numbers of dairy farmers give up dairy farming, it is the consumer in Canada who will pay dearly. Before the minister considers seriously the indexing of industrial milk prices he ought to look closely at costs of production, the profit structure of the industry and the needs of the Canadian public for industrial milk. Before we make any decision in this area early next summer, we should consider carefully the problems facing the industry.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, the statement of the minister that the price of industrial milk

[Mr. Wise.]

will be increased by 61 cents will decidedly not satisfy Canadian milk producers, not only in the province of Quebec or Ontario, but throughout the country. The minister should have introduced amendments or a coherent policy with regard to production costs.

With regard to feeds, for instance, the minister should have granted subsidies to enable farmers to lower their production costs on the one hand and, on the other, the consumers to buy dairy products otherwise than as some ministers would have them do when they say, for instance: Instead of buying natural milk, drink powdered milk. That is no solution. If we were to keep on granting subsidies to the consumer while helping the farmer to lower his production costs, then people across the country would take the minister seriously and the farmers would rejoice in having at long last a Minister of Agriculture who deals with their problems.

[*English*]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The spokesman for the official opposition made some comment about non-delivery of copies of the statement. Copies of the statement were delivered to the offices of the leaders of each party at 9.45 a.m. this morning. I am not responsible for distribution out of their offices.

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## INDUSTRY

UNITED AIRCRAFT—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF CONTRACTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to ask permission of the House to move the following motion, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow):

That, in view of the \$70 million in federal grants accorded to the United Aircraft Corporation of Longueuil, Quebec, in view of the company's intransigence toward the just demands of its employees and in view of the Prime Minister's specific promise in this House last fall to make public the details of contracts existing between United Aircraft Corporation and the federal government, this House requests the Prime Minister to provide such details within the next seven days.

● (1120)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion. It being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43, it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.