

been heard and therefore the Chair has to say: "The motion cannot be put."

Now, Mr. Speaker, even if the Crediters are sometimes accused of making senseless proposals, we note that after a while, and this a strange thing, the government did carry out a few which eventually make sense.

● (2110)

Mr. Speaker, if the government were to agree to this proposal,—I hope the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) will take good note of it,—to the effect that the public sector be financed differently from what it is today, it would disappear from the loans market and would cease to be the main competitor of private enterprise on the money market. That would help lower the interest rates, which would in turn allow private enterprise to survive and hope to compete on the world market, all this could be achieved through the Bank of Canada, which, after all, is our own institution.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I put a question on the Order Paper, which reads as follows: Did the government borrow from the Bank of Canada during the past ten years? . . . The reply was "No", and a few details were provided: Under Section 18(I) of the Bank of Canada Act "The Bank may . . . (i) make loans or advances for periods not exceeding six months to the government of Canada." Well, in six months, one cannot go very far.

So, obviously, the government does not wish to be indebted to the Bank of Canada for a mere six months. It is therefore suggested that this legislation be amended by Parliament in order to allow the Bank of Canada to lend money for much longer periods at interest rates which would cover administrative charges. It seems to me that this would be sound administration.

Again, this will come about. But here we have a poorly timed engine which needs a tune-up. The engine turns and firing does take place, but when it does, the piston has already travelled a little too far, and the combustion chamber has become too large. So, the revolution is delayed, since compression is inadequate.

Well, when it comes to legislating in Parliament, this is what happens. We are not tuned-up, and our action is delayed. When damage has been done, we then decide to act.

This is the reason why I suggest again today to the government and to the minister of Finance that they consider very seriously the very concrete proposals that we are making so as to make the Canadian economy competitive on the international market, to enable us Canadians to be really ourselves throughout the world.

If nothing is done, I am afraid that we shall soon find ourselves in a rather difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of existing legislation we find that farmers have left and are still leaving the farm, because they are not assured of an income enabling them to make a living, to make some profits that will at least leave them something in the end.

Some time ago, I had started to explain to the House, before running out of time, the problem of the dairy industry. Why has there been so many auctions? In the March 27 issue of *La Terre de chez nous*, 16 auctions were

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announced for the sale of large dairy herds of 40, 50, 75, 100 heads of cattle. Those are people quitting the dairy industry.

I have here a resolution concerning only, the Quebec district, and I quote:

Extract from the minutes of the annual general convention of the industrial milk producers union of the Quebec region, held . . . on March 12, 1974.

This resolution says that this year in that region alone, 652 producers have given up dairy production.

I have also here a letter from the president of the Canadian Federation of Milk Producers, dated March 26, 1974. He is not just anybody, but a responsible person, Mr. Speaker. He describes a situation that concerns him and also comments on the report of the Food Prices Review Board. I will only quote the following paragraph:

"There surely exist serious reasons to worry about the incomes of a large number of producers in this sector . . .

—the dairy industry sector,

. . . about today's prospects of this industry and its ability to provide Canadian consumers with an adequate supply of dairy products at reasonable prices."

The level of milk producers' incomes has been maintained too low much too long and the process of recovery is much too slow coming about.

As I stated earlier, our engine needs a tune-up.

This country is faced today with the escalating sales of dairy herds and a constant reduction in dairy production.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this is a suggestion which we must be concerned about and which deserves being pondered. I concede that, on March 31, the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) announced a new policy for the current year.

Improvements were made but they are insufficient. One can refer to figures worked out by experienced people in that field, who figured to the nearest cent what it costs to produce 100 pounds of milk. An analysis is made of the cost of grain, which is \$2.22, that of hay, \$1.98, that of milk transportation, 38 cents and that of mineral salt which is of 8 cents and we come to a total of \$10.15 for 100 pounds of milk. But now, since April 1, the average price received by the producers of industrial milk is \$8.50. Therefore there is a marked loss and even if we allowed them to borrow ten times more than they can borrow now, from banks or from caisses populaires, the whole amount being guaranteed by the Department of Finance, that would not settle their problem except for a short time.

But they will merely tie up future production and if the future is not better, they will have to do as others have done, get out of business.

The same thing can be said of pork production. For the last few months, our pork producers have been producing at loss and one is distressed to notice that they are losing great amounts of money. I know that the Minister of Agriculture and his public servants are now considering the problem but there is one thing I am sure of, I am sure that the minister is not getting enough co-operation from his colleagues, especially those from the Treasury Board. That gentleman cannot perform miracles and if he is not given the credits needed for planning policies that will enable producers to stay in business and to overcome that