

The Budget—Mr. Blais

Canadian milk producers around the table and propose a long-term dairy policy under which we will inject \$1.5 billion in the agricultural dairy sector. All those people were quite satisfied, Mr. Speaker.

● (1700)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, and the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned:

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Right Hon. Deputy of Her Excellency the Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-74, An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act and to provide for certain matters in relation to the 1981 decennial census—Chapter No. 8.

Bill C-80, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof—Chapter No. 9.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE BUDGET**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount) (p. 11009).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): When we left, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Blais) had the floor.

Mr. Pierre Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I shall resume immediately. A while ago, several of my colleagues told me how impatient they were to hear the rest of my comments. In fact, I am sure that

some of the Members opposite are also dying to hear what I have to say.

The initiative announced by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) in January not only allowed us to stabilize dairy production in Canada since, in Quebec alone, this sector accounts for about half of all farm income, but the injection of \$1.5 billion to stabilize this sector is also very important for the rest of the country.

It also shows exactly what you can achieve in a few months if there is agreement among the provinces, the producer federations and the various groups involved, including the Canadian Dairy Commission and the processing industry.

This is what our Government does, Mr. Speaker: we consult, we set objectives and we meet them. That is what it takes. People had forgotten that public affairs could be managed in this way. After 20 years of haphazard management, the people were no longer used to this type of administration, but they are now getting used to it again thanks to things like the Western Accord, the agreement with the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland and agreements providing \$1.5 billion for regional development in Quebec. These are practical achievements.

As concerns agriculture, the Government took another initiative last year, and I think that it is important to mention it, Mr. Speaker. All Canadians have been asked to do their share, and especially the agriculture industry, under a cost recovery policy which has impacted on expenditures in all sectors of Government activity. It was an important aspect, perhaps the most important one, that all sectors of the farm industry agreed on how those costs should be recovered, on how the increases in the cost of Government services should be paid by those who used them. That is another aspect, not just cost recovery but agreement by those concerned and consultation to achieve that. That is something again we were not used to, Mr. Speaker.

In November 1985, at the First Ministers' Conference, the Prime Minister and the Premiers of all the Provinces agreed to call as early as possible in January a conference of Ministers of Agriculture, because agriculture was identified as a national priority. Immediately, task forces were established and the conference was indeed held at the end of January, at which time the committees reported on their respective areas. That consultation with provincial Ministers of Agriculture is now an almost ongoing process in Canada. Every day there is a federal-provincial conference, and if you remember those years under the previous Government, people always looked forward to a federal-provincial conference with excitement, for even on the day before it opened and the minute the Ministers put down their briefcases, both federal and provincial, the fight would start. People were looking forward to it as if it were a boxing match or a great hockey game, an exciting event at any rate because we knew there would be people in the penalty box all through the game. Such were to some extent their federal-provincial conferences. Now there have been more of them