

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of Agriculture has answered anything but my question, could he answer it this time? Can the farmers get in touch with him if they do not get their \$4 per hundred-weight of milk?

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Grey-Bruce on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Winkler:** I rise for the second time on a question of privilege because I did not receive a reasonable answer to my first question.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Winkler:** That is fine. Go ahead and holler. The farmers will know this, too.

**An hon. Member:** They know it.

**Mr. Ricard:** They don't care about the farmers.

**Mr. Winkler:** I wish to ask the minister once again: Does he wish to accept the responsibility? He does not have to worry about my political friends; he should accept his own responsibility.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a question of privilege. It is still an argument.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the consideration he is giving to the price of milk, and in view of the announcement that the price of milk is to go up in the Ottawa and Toronto areas by 2 cents a quart, will he investigate this increase to see whether it is necessary?

**Mr. Greene:** The hon. member knows that this is pertinent to fluid milk, which is exclusively a provincial matter. If consumer prices are going up in those areas, the province of Ontario has to assume its responsibility.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** When the minister announced a price of \$4 per hundred-weight for manufactured milk, was it his intention that the farmers should receive those four dollars? Was that his intention, when he made this announcement as a matter of government policy?

**Mr. Greene:** As I said earlier, the policy speaks very clearly for itself. It has been lived up to, to the letter. The province of Ontario has the right to fix the price by

reason of the measures taken. We have made it possible for them to fix the price at \$3.25, and they can take account of any other factors they wish with respect to the cost of trucking—this does not fall within the constitutional area of the federal government, in connection with price. I hope hon. members opposite are not urging this government to step into a provincial area of jurisdiction.

**Mr. Starr:** I shall repeat my question and ask the minister to answer it this time, not beat around the bush.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has asked a question. He may not be satisfied with the answer the minister has given him—and I am not clear myself whether the minister did answer the question—but as the hon. member knows, that is as far as he can go, even if he is dissatisfied with the reply given to him.

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)):** I should like to direct a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. I was delighted to hear him say that we in the opposition were trying to get our political friends the farmers off the hook.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Danforth:** May I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has received representations from Ontario, Quebec and other provinces to the effect that the dairy producers of Canada are not receiving the minimum of \$4 per hundredweight for milk?

**Mr. Greene:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the farmers are such friends of the hon. member's political friends that they are taking their tractors out on the highways to show their friendship.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Greene:** I have received representations that some of the farmers, because of the failure either of provincial governments or of producers associations to fix the price at the factory, or because some of the plants have increased the cost of trucking to the farmers themselves, are not receiving \$4 per hundred-weight.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

The minister is trying to be smart by asking us to believe that there are federal