

*Dissatisfaction with Dairy Policy*

other hand the dairy farmers have to find some means of bringing this most important question before the people of this country. Surely it is urgent that we as members of parliament, accepting full responsibility for this problem, take every opportunity to place this proposition before the government and see if by such a debate we can bring to their attention the real urgency in the matter. We should try to see if through such a debate we can bring to the attention of the government the real urgency of this problem and bring about an equitable solution so these farmers will not be forced from their lands and will not be forced out of the dairy business, and so Canada will not be placed in the position of having to import dairy products.

● (2:50 p.m.)

I should like to emphasize with all the force at my command that now is the time to solve this problem. A debate at this time would give us an opportunity to put before the government the very real problem with which the dairy farmers of this country are concerned. I do not feel that a delay of one, three or five days will serve any useful purpose. We should have the opportunity to debate this problem now in the house.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the house leader had to go out so I will say just one word on the subject; that is that the announcement by my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture was made at least two weeks ago. Therefore it seems to me that the subject matter, important and urgent as it is to the farmers, does not fall within the class of subjects as to which there is urgency of debate. There might have been a case to be made on the day or the day after the Minister of Agriculture made his statement, but to suggest that something new has happened between yesterday and today to make this matter sufficiently urgent to interrupt the regular business set down for this day would, I suggest to Your Honour, be to make a mockery of the rather narrow provisions of the standing order. For that reason it seems to me that the motion should not be considered to be in order.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, if ever there was any doubt that the motion was proper, the Minister of Transport has removed it. He stated that there would have been urgency and this motion would have been justified if made two weeks ago, but because

it was not made two weeks ago but only today there is not sufficient urgency to bring the motion within the rules of the house.

Mr. Speaker, the motion could not have been made two weeks ago because people did not realize what a mishmash had been made of the dairy policy by the government. Only in the last two or three days has the realization come to all parts of this country that the dairy industry—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is an insult to the farmers.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** When I speak of mishmash I sometimes think of my hon. friend.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The very fact that such interruptions are taking place indicates that my argument is well founded. The dairy farmers have been crucified by this government, and they realize it.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I wish some of the farmers could hear the Liberal members opposite jeering at that observation. Today in every part of this nation it is recognized by almost everyone, except those who sit opposite, that the situation is serious and that delay cannot be permitted. It might be said that this matter could be discussed when the interim supply motion is before the house. However, even with closure applied to the defence debate that would be a delay of two weeks. That is too long a time. The dairy industry cannot be sacrificed through delay.

I suggest therefore that a good case has been made. If it had not been for the assistance of the Minister of Transport when he said this would have been a perfect motion two weeks ago, I might have had some doubt. No longer am I in doubt.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I was going to remind the minister that he has already spoken on the subject, but I understand he is rising now on a point of order.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I suggest it is in accordance with the rules to make a correction after an hon. member has spoken who has misrepresented what I said. What I said was that there might have been an argument. I did not say it was a perfect case.

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