

Senator THORVALDSON: With regard to the Agricultural Stabilization Fund, Dr. Davidson, perhaps I am mistaken, but is that item not costing us a little less in the last year than it has for the past two or three years? Can you give us a brief review? Probably I should know this, but what is the main item causing this high figure?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Dairy products: \$81,624,000.

Senator THORVALDSON: Would that be for butter?

Dr. DAVIDSON: No, this was butter, cheese and fluid milk, as I recall. It would include all dairy products, but there was a new program introduced last year at an additional cost, as I recall, of something in the order of \$20 million, under which we increased the price that we paid per hundredweight for fluid milk that goes into certain kinds of use. I could give you the details of that, if you like.

Senator THORVALDSON: Just in a very general way, Doctor.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Summing up the breakdown of this, it is as follows: dairy products, \$81.6 million; sugar beets, \$7.5 million; wool, \$726,000; eggs—

Senator THORVALDSON: At any rate, it is really mainly dairy products and sugar beets which comprise the bulk of the money.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Well, out of the total, \$81.6 million is for dairy products.

Senator GROSART: May I ask a rather general question, Mr. Chairman, dealing here with some unforeseen expenditures amounting to approximately \$236 million. This year we have had many unforeseen expenditures. For example, the Guaranteed Income Supplement which in this period cost \$70 million will at that rate be \$286 million a year. Would the details of that figure come before the Treasury Board?

Dr. DAVIDSON: The details of the Guaranteed Income Supplement?

Senator GROSART: The \$70 million which applies to the same period or the \$286 million which will apply to next year.

Dr. DAVIDSON: It would come before the Treasury Board initially as part of the Cabinet paper which led to the Cabinet decision to introduce that legislation and it will be reviewed again each year at Estimates time.

Senator GROSART: Would the Treasury Board say, "We are satisfied that this is the amount required?"

Dr. DAVIDSON: They would have to check the accuracy of the estimates figure. But the Treasury Board would not decide what the scale of benefits would be. That would be a Cabinet decision.

Senator GROSART: I am merely saying that the amount asked was properly related to the statutes.

Dr. DAVIDSON: That is correct.

Senator GROSART: It seems extraordinary then that we have not been able to get this breakdown.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Which breakdown, senator?

Senator GROSART: I would merely say that we asked for it in committee and were told it was not available. This seems to happen over and over again. The minister, in his main budget or in his mini-budgets, presents these figures and everybody says, "Yes, we accept that." Why is there not a breakdown to justify these very large amounts that are asked for from time to time, just as here you ask for \$236 million and there is a complete breakdown with an analysis? Regarding these other figures, such as this \$286 million, under the present circumstance, Parliament has merely to accept the figure and to accept that it is going to cost \$286 million.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Senator Grosart, I recognize that Parliament needs to know the amount of that figure before it authorizes the program to be embarked upon