

farm. He also might learn a little about automobile manufacturing if he were to spend some time in an automobile plant, which he never has. He is an expert on everything. He has now become an instant expert on food and beef marketing in Canada. He astounds me. His leader, in the last election campaign, had a two-price system. He never explained it, although I asked him to explain it many times. He said there would be one price for Canada and one price for the rest of the world. For whom was the other price meant, Mr. Speaker? The starving Africans and Asians who make only a couple of hundred dollars a year? He never explained it, neither did any member of his party.

We had dramatic evidence just recently of how high feed prices have made livestock production a very touchy business for the farmer. We have had to cope with some gigantic problems in the industry in the last two years. Anyone who says that I have not worked on those problems and done more than any other minister of agriculture of any government just does not know the facts. They do not want to be associated with the truth. They are out to assassinate by innuendo, and that is all.

On January 1, 1973, Canada banned the use of DES both as a feed additive and as an implant, because of the potential danger of cancer resulting from its use. The Department of Agriculture did not take this step, as Dalton Camp says we did; this action was taken by the Department of National Health and Welfare in the interests of the health and safety of the people of this nation. In February of last year we suspended the tariffs on beef and live cattle to ensure consumers a better price. We were also informed that there would be free movement of cattle in the United States. On August 13, 1973, we imposed export controls on beef and cattle, pork and hogs, to ensure that all Canadians had adequate and ample supplies of meat.

Why did we do this, Mr. Speaker? Because of the price control system in the United States, some sharpies down there discovered that if they shipped meat into Canada they could then ship it back to the United States and sell it at whatever price they wanted, thus disturbing the whole of the beef market in Canada and North America, a market on which we had always relied. Then in September we removed the controls but restored the tariffs same as the United States. On November 2 we imposed an import surcharge. We were asked to do this by the beef producers of Canada. We did what they asked, to protect them at that time. Hon. members can ask any one of these producers whether we did anything to assist them at that time.

Then in March we introduced a seven cents a pound premium on grade A cattle. In April we reduced it to five cents, but extended it to all grades except mature cows and bulls. Also, in April we required certification that imported beef was free of DES. The United States did not see fit to follow that up, but tried to participate in the election campaign in Canada. On August 2, I announced a comprehensive beef stabilization program, and on August 12 beef import controls went into effect. The beef import controls were based on a five-year average of imports from all countries shipping beef to Canada. We could see what was happening to beef production throughout the world,

### *Slaughter of Calves*

and all these actions were necessary to stabilize our own beef industry.

On October 7, senior officials of my department met with provincial officials to begin work on a truly national plan to stabilize the beef industry. If hon. members opposite had not said, "You are going to have an election, you lucky Canadians", the stabilization legislation would have been before the House and passed into law by now. But they said, "No, let us have a big election," because they said they were going to run the country.

All these actions were necessary, Mr. Speaker, to deal with unusual and abnormal situations in the domestic and international markets that threatened either to depress the industry or to inflate consumer prices. They were all successful, too. We have enjoyed stability of price and supply that no other country in the world can match, and I challenge hon. members to prove otherwise. To October 19 of this year, inspected gradings of beef were 4 per cent above the same period in 1973, yet the price to the producer remained almost constant. Beef producers in other countries have been forced to fire-sale prices by increased marketings. At the present time, top grades in the United States are 10, 11 or 12 cents a pound less than our top grades.

We took action to protect our producers from the price pressures exerted by the ill-advised price freeze imposed by the former President of the United States. The United States Secretary of Agriculture said that any man who put a price freeze on food or beef would be an idiot.

**Mr. Woolliams:** There are lots of those around.

**Mr. McKinley:** How much is beef in Japan?

**Mr. Whelan:** I am glad the hon. member for Huron (Mr. McKinley) has asked that. A kilo of beef in Japan—that is, two pounds, two ounces—costs \$25. Let me tell the House about Japan. We protected our consumers against imports of United States beef that had been fattened with the artificial hormone DES. Every other country in the world did the same as we did. They do not import meat from any country that allows its beef exports to be fed DES. Even the energy problem and the rising cost of fuel affected the industry. Japan, for example, drastically reduced its beef imports because it needed the money to pay the higher prices for imported oil. This cut off imports from Australia, New Zealand and the United States. So where did they look for a home for their products? To the old dump-ground, Canada.

However, we did what the cattlemen wanted: we put a quota on all those imports, and in essence we protected Australia and New Zealand as well. Last year, when Americans were buying Canadian beef to try to circumvent the price controls on their own animals, we applied export controls to ensure that Canadians had enough meat, at stable prices, for their own needs. I was criticized for that, too. This was done mainly to ensure that the industry was stabilized, and it worked. When U.S. price controls were removed, we placed a surcharge on imports of American beef to protect our beef industry from the