

*Oral Questions*

Under the formula used to set the price of industrial milk in Canada—and my colleague must know how it works—the milk producers' costs are assessed every six months. The farmers are therefore able to establish their production costs. This means that this amount of 60 cents will be evaluated every year and they will be able to get all or part of it back when the price of milk is set, twice a year.

I think that the milk producers are reacting a little too strongly to the news, which is quite a small cut, all in all, under the circumstances.

[English]

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, the minister is quite right when he says that farmers are reacting violently to this cut. He knows that during the past couple of years farmers have had their quotas cut by 10 per cent. On April 1 the minister is proposing to slash that income support program by another 10 per cent. When there is such great uncertainty in this industry already because farmers do not trust this government in the GATT negotiations because of what happened in the FTA, why is the government chopping this income by millions and millions of dollars to Canadian dairy producers? Why?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the member is not accurate when he says this is an income program. It is a subsidy that has been paid to producers because of the cost of production method that we have at this time. The subsidy is there, like all grants and contributions, throughout the whole of the government. We are talking about an \$8.5 billion reduction in expenditures by the Government of Canada and agriculture is paying part of that.

Mr. Speaker, we have as you know over \$20 billion in debt in the agriculture sector. The interest rate fluctuations we have seen over the last number of weeks, because of the view of the international market of Canada, cost agriculture hundreds of millions of dollars. Just 1 per cent in our debt costs agriculture \$100 million.

We know it is difficult, but all parts of the government with the exception of those cost shared income programs, safety nets, have been reduced.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. The father of a 15-year old boy contacted me in my office recently. It had to do with the 1-976 sex lines. The phone bill was substantial. It was the first inkling that the boy was phoning these numbers. His concern was how this number can be kept from the use of young people. There are plenty of ads today. There is a full-page ad in one of our Ottawa papers of these 1-976 telephone numbers.

My question to the minister is, what does the government intend to do to take care of this type of situation for a 15-year old and other young people?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I fully share my hon. friend's concern. When we have a situation where young people are enticed to call and receive sexually explicit material and when this is automatically added to the phone bill, it is a situation that is not acceptable.

I have spoken to the chairman of the CRTC with regard to this and I will be writing to him to ask the CRTC to look into this matter to see if there are ways in which families can be given better protection.

\* \* \*

• (1500 )

**EXTERNAL AID**

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Yesterday of course was the National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Violence against Women. All Canadians joined in an outpouring of feeling that we should do all we can to end the scourge of violence against women.

Within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs comes the issue of humanitarian relief, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. At this time, the world is witnessing the systematic rape and assault of Muslim women and girls under the direction of the armed forces of the Serbian government and its surrogates.