

government. Those are the figures of the Federation on April 1, 1975:

April 1, 1975 Cost for one cwt of milk—\$11.60

April 1, 1975 Price given (purchasing power)—\$10.04

In 1975-76, there will be a loss for that dairy producer because of that gap, because the minister had promised something else which has not happened. That honest farmer produces more than ½ million pounds of milk a year. He is in fact a real farm producer who has invested high-risk money and who finds himself one day with an income loss of \$8,054.93 only for that item.

So, this year I sustain a loss and if I anticipate for next year, after the Dairy Commission's budget and the article of the federal government... I am told that they are not sure yet of the policy; they are not sure of the policy but we know where they are going! It is for that very reason that the hon. member for Lotbinière launched a debate today in order to make the minister more aware, because I do not believe that in the Liberal caucus... That has been proved, he was not too sensitive. The sensitivity was not too evident. I should decrease my production and have a lesser income. That means that my production of 516,342 pounds of milk should decrease by 15 per cent. That is it would decrease to 438,891 pounds of milk, which is a loss of 77,451 pounds. This is a farmer who can calculate, Mr. Speaker. He does not need the mathematicians of the federal government to put his accounts in order, to calculate his losses and income, to know what will happen in 1976 and 1977 which such a production cost. We have nothing to teach that farmer. This farmer could teach lessons to the federal government administration and to the government facing us, he could teach them how to administer a country as intelligently as he administers his own farm and with data as clear and as precise. The implications of the new dairy policy—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont):** Order, please. The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker, because this Minister of Agriculture is a farmer and he does understand the dairy industry. He has not wretched on one thing he has said he would do.

[Translation]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Minister—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont):** Order, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) on a point of order.

[English]

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize that the minister by speaking has lost his right to speak again, but I think it is most improper for him to try to pitch-fork a second speech in by way of a point of order.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Clermont):** Order, please. The hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau).

### Dairy Policy

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the frequent interventions from the Minister of Agriculture are evidence that his statement was weak. Now, he wants to interrupt me for the purpose of using up my time and preventing me from coming to the conclusion that this farmer has something to say about this dairy policy.

● (1740)

I would ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) to let me finish reading this very important document so that we may see what has become of our dairy farmers, who were prosperous, intelligent and good managers, as a result of his dairy policy. Mr. Speaker, I have now reached this paragraph.

I shall now deal with the consequences of the new dairy policy for 1976-77. I ask the minister to be patient and hear me out.

The consequences of the new dairy policy for 1976-77. Production costs on April 1, 1976, per hundredweight of milk, \$12.02; basic price April 1, 1976, per hundredweight of milk, \$10.94; promised indexation, he has not forgotten anything, 40 cents, total, \$11.34; export charges, \$1.00 per hundredweight—this is what the Liberals recommend in the brief that we were lucky enough to get hold of—\$1.00 net, \$10.34; increase in processing costs, 8 cents, net price after deductions, \$10.26; increase in farm production costs—the farmers are affected as well by the cost of inflation and their production costs are rising—35 cents., which leaves us with another net price of \$9.91; reduction of the subsidy from \$2.66 to \$2.34, 32 cents, which leaves us with another price of \$9.59. Loss of net income for return on labour for processing 77,451 lbs of milk, at the cost of \$6.00 per hundredweight, total, \$4,647. The difference between the production costs of \$12.02 and the net farm price of \$9.59, or a loss of profit of \$2.43 per hundredweight, or for the full year, a loss of \$2.43 for 438,891 lbs. of milk, the remaining quota for 1976, that is a loss of \$10,665.

The total loss so far, if the minister cares to listen and to wait until I have finished, is \$15,312. In addition to those \$15,312, we have to take into account a reduced purchasing power. This farmer does not need to be acquainted with serious economic theories to know that his purchasing power is getting weaker and weaker. His purchasing power is also weaker as regards the total levies at the plant; transportation, 38 cents for 438,829 lbs. of milk, total: \$1,667. Advertising for the joint program: 5 cents for 438,829 lbs., \$219.41. As for his export charges, there is probably a 35 cents difference on 438,829 lbs., that is a loss of \$1,535. According to the projections for April 5, 1976 to April 1, 1977, the total loss of his purchasing power is \$3,421.

I hope this information will help you to succeed in the task with which we entrusted you and I remain yours truly, Emilien Lacasse, overwhelmed, Honfleur, County of Bellechasse.

If the Minister wants to write to him, he may.

**Mr. Fortin:** That guy is calling for help.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, when we are told: Who said that the government did not keep its commitment? It is simple enough, there is no need to argue very long. In proof of this, the farmers have come here. If the promise made last year to the farmers had been kept they would not have