

*Dissatisfaction with Dairy Policy*

\$5.10 per hundredweight of manufacturing milk.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel that the following reasons militate in favour of a debate on a definite matter of public importance and urgency, namely the new dairy policy of the government.

Whereas the amount of money made available to the Canadian Dairy Commission is inadequate;

Whereas the dairy policy does not meet with the satisfaction of the producers of manufacturing milk;

Whereas there is no guarantee that the subsidy will be maintained regularly at \$1.11, due to the fact that the export premium of 10 cents per hundredweight is not sufficient and that the Canadian Dairy Commission will have to deduct the necessary amounts from the \$1.11 subsidy;

Whereas this means that the \$1.11 subsidy will be liable to readjustment because of shipping costs;

Whereas the surpluses of dairy producers, namely grades 2, 3 and 4 fluid milk, are not entitled to subsidies;

Whereas cream producers do not receive any special subsidy;

Whereas there are rumours that a group of over 10,000 dairy producers are organizing a march on Ottawa in protest against the present dairy policy;

Whereas there is talk of a general strike amongst dairy producers in the near enough future to slow down the overall economy of this country;

Whereas a ceiling has been put on dairy production and that beyond a certain quota, namely that of last year, dairy producers receive no subsidy to encourage greater production;

Whereas it is proved that our agriculture is now, and has been for several years, in such a state of stagnation that our farmers are dismayed and discouraged;

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons and many others, I feel that this is a matter of urgent public importance which should concern all members as elected representatives of the people.

It has become obvious that farming is no longer economic. On several occasions, farmers have expressed their wishes and their needs. They have written briefs; they have brought pressure to bear on their members of

[Mr. Caouette.]

parliament and they have even marched on Ottawa.

But it remains, nevertheless, that farmers have always had to cope with the rising cost of living and yet their income has not increased proportionately.

Without the farmers, urban citizens and factory workers, members of parliament could not live.

A farmer's farm is an urgent matter, it is a private enterprise. Do we want to destroy or to save it?

I feel it is time, Mr. Speaker, to discuss that urgent matter, so that we may clearly establish that Canadian farmers, Canadian dairy farmers will be treated more fairly than they have been up to now by the Department of Agriculture, by the Minister of Finance and Receiver General (Mr. Sharp) and by the government as a whole.

Such is, in my opinion, the urgency of the matter. That is the reason for my intervention today on behalf of the farmers and, to prove how urgent the matter is, I suggest that the Minister of Agriculture bring it before the house so that a free vote may be held and, if it is necessary to put the existence of the government at stake, let nothing stop us, but let us respect Canadian farmers.

This is how urgent my question is.

[English]

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to add my wholehearted support to the proposition put forward by the hon. member in requesting an adjournment in order to debate the very serious problem today facing a great segment of our agricultural industry. It is true that normally we would wait to debate this matter on interim supply and at that time would put the proposition before the government, but I think the problem is far too urgent to brook any delay in such a debate. The farmers of this nation are very much concerned about this problem. Meetings have been held of all the large farmers' organizations and the farmers of this country have come to the conclusion—and the government was duly notified of this—that anything less than \$5 per hundredweight for milk would not be acceptable.

I think the government should be endeavouring to save this industry. We find the dairy farmers are talking about strikes, the destruction of dairy products and holding them back from the market. Nobody wants to see this type of action take place. On the