

*Hansard—Altering of Report*

therefore they took the trouble to find out what the facts were. The last sentence of the article is this:

Quebec law prohibits manufacture and sale of spreads manufactured from vegetable oils. It does not apply to spreads made from animal or fish oils or fats.

Well, that does correspond with the facts as we know them, but I have no comment to make upon that; that was not my suggestion when the article was written.

I have checked the records and wish to put the following statement on *Hansard*. After the plan to provide butter at a price reduced by 21 cents a pound to institutions was first set up on January 20, 1955 and an institution made application to be supplied at the reduced price, a printed form was sent to that institution asking for, first, the quantity of butter used monthly—that was, used monthly before they made the application—the quantity of margarine used monthly, again before they made the application, and the quantity of other fats used monthly before they made the application. Then, there are two lines left for remarks at the end of that. I have no record of any remarks that were made; but the record for the last month before the officials of each institution made application shown in the statistics from which I quoted the amount of butter, margarine and other fats used in Quebec at the time the institution first came under the plan.

I should say at this point there is no difference between the province of Quebec and any other province in that regard. Exactly the same forms went to all the provinces, and the returns came in from those provinces, giving the position which existed when the institution came under the plan. From the time the institution came under the plan the record of butter used is the actual amount for which we made the 21 cents deduction. Hon. members will see that there is no difficulty about that because month by month we had to pay 21 cents a pound on all the butter that was used by the institutions, so we make our own records with regard to that. It is not necessary to get the facts from the institutions.

The total of the number of institutions and the amounts of margarine and other fats for the province of Quebec are listed on the first return on the file, which would be at the beginning of February of 1955: Number of institutions, 199; butter, 133,166 pounds; margarine, 5,408 pounds; and other fats, 46,680 pounds.

Then, as new institutions came under the plan the amount of margarine and other fats they were using at the time they came

in was added to the total of those already in. That is the figure which is shown for each succeeding month. I should like to point out that does not mean that those institutions are still using margarine in any quantity; it does not mean that after they came into the plan they used margarine, and we have no record as to what they did do after they came under the plan. It only indicates that before they came under the plan at all they were using margarine in some form. Again, I would remind hon. members of the distinction made in the *Gazette* report as to the two different types of margarine. Their contention is that margarine which is made from anything other than vegetable oils is not illegal in the province of Quebec. That is something that will have to be determined by others. I am not offering an opinion on it.

The last statement which I had on my desk when the quotation was asked for was that of January 27, 1956, and it reads as follows: Institutions, 777; butter, 297,313 pounds; margarine, 13,591 pounds. Again I repeat, that does not mean that those institutions are using that much margarine or any margarine since they came under the plan. That is the total amount that was used by all institutions before they came under the plan from February 1 last year down to January 27 this year.

I now have a report for February 10, 1956, which is two weeks later, which illustrates the practice followed. It shows: institutions, 788; butter, 299,135 pounds; margarine, 13,666 pounds; other fats, 103,346 pounds.

This shows that in the two weeks preceding that report there were 11 new institutions came in. The increase in the report with respect to margarine is 75 pounds and the increase in the report with respect to other fats is 200 pounds. This record does not show what they continued to use after they came in. It is only a record of what they were using, and the record of each new institution is added to the records of all other institutions previously recorded to give the total figure.

Our record shows that in all institutions in Quebec there were 1,822 more pounds of butter used in the two weeks ending February 10, 1956 than in the week ending January 27, 1956. As a matter of fact, that was the question asked me by the hon. member for Quebec West. He wanted to know what was the difference with respect to butter. That is the question as it appears in *Hansard*. The records have been given the same way in all provinces. It will therefore be necessary to obtain further information from all institutions before being able to determine the