

Supply

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, if I understand correctly, the hon. member is talking about energy conservation demonstration projects.

Mr. Gurbin: These are three simple things the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has asked the federal government to assist with. I do not think the minister is "with it" as far as energy is concerned. I do not think he has a concept of what energy audit is all about. There is energy in and there is energy out. That is tremendously important in understanding how to manage energy resources. Farmers have energy inputs and energy outputs and Agriculture Canada could help to determine what those are through an energy audit. Then there is an assessment function which could be undertaken; Agriculture Canada, through some of its facilities would provide an assessment of the opportunities on a particular farm scene for taking advantage of different energy forms or for substitution away from oil. This is something his government has put forward as a priority. The final thing is pilot projects. This is clearly the way we have to go—through co-operative efforts and pilot projects to make sure we get some of these alternative energy sources developed.

Mr. Whelan: The hon. member has his view about my understanding of energy input and output on farms and that is his right. We have studied the energy input on farms. For instance, we have produced grain which is going to provide energy, we have assessed the amount of energy collected from the sun to produce crops and so on. We have done a lot of work on that. There is \$8 million unused by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for pilot projects and submissions have been made to them and considered by the agricultural engineering department. I think there are some 40 demonstration projects of energy conservation and new ways of creating energy in Ontario at the present time, not paid for by my department but by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources under that special fund. It is not \$1.5 million; I believe there is \$140 million in that fund for such programs. A lot of farmers are using them. The hon. member talks about the Federation of Agriculture and their farm audits. I do not know where the Canadian Federation of Agriculture got that idea. I have talked to some farmers about it and they are saying, "Are they telling me that I don't run an efficient operation, that I don't know how to run an efficient tractor, that I don't know how to cultivate my soil in the proper fashion?"

The whole program put forth by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, takes in a wide sphere of things for conservation of energy and energy use.

● (2240)

I am just a plain ordinary farmer. I am not a highly educated person, but I know that all of the things about which the hon. member is talking are very important.

The Chairman: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. minister, but the time allotted to him has expired.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Tessier: Mr. Chairman, as you well know, I cannot let the opportunity pass by without mentioning the good battle I am waging with and on behalf of the farm producers of my riding. They all agree our Canadian dairy policy, has been quite successful and I am particularly proud to acknowledge the wonderful co-operation we have received from the Liberal government especially the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Chairman, earlier today we heard the hon. member for Joliette praise and recommend the retention of our policy in all its aspects for which he tried to obtain a commitment from the minister.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind the hon. member for Joliette who used to boast he was the only real Quebec representative, that the Canadian dairy policy has been based on serious thoughts and hard facts, particularly with the co-operation of members from Quebec. I believe the hon. member for Joliette should be corrected when he claims members on this side do not assume their responsibilities. That policy has not been designed in a haphazard way. It is the result of the combined actions of the present liberal government and the former liberal government whose policies proved very satisfactory to producers over the years.

I do not want to take the time of the House as I think the various aspects of the dairy policy have already been dealt with in many ways. I only would like to address one aspect which has not been discussed so far, and which should shed some light on the whole matter in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission—and I take this opportunity to congratulate him for his outstanding job—gave us the reassurance that the Canadian dairy policy should be open and clean, but I have a reservation to make on that point as I happen to believe sour manipulations have taken place, which must be brought out into the open. Unfortunately I must, in their respect, blame the attitude of the Quebec Farm Marketing Board which, with the apparent and probable complicity of the present Quebec minister of agriculture, refused to let the board launch an investigation which had proved necessary.

I strongly urge the Minister of Agriculture to provide fair treatment, especially for small producers, so that they may have a marketing board whose operations will be clear and straightforward and of which they can be proud, even though every aspect of its activities must be protected if we want to keep the confidence of producers in all sectors of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, being certain that the government will be willing to proceed with this investigation, I would like to speak of a matter which has not been neglected until now but which deserves further attention. In the past, the federal government has provided many tools to the agricultural producers of Canada, and it is of one of them that I would like to speak, namely, the Livestock Feed Assistance Act. As you know, Mr. Chairman, there is a Canadian Livestock Feed Board in