

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

to what the hon. lady has said that as one of those who had some difficulty in obtaining an education, I sympathize entirely both with the views expressed by my hon. colleague and the hon. lady who has just spoken.

This government has taken some major steps forward to assist students in obtaining university education, both through the payment of youth allowances and through student loans. As I see the problem it is not only a question of providing free university education. It is a much deeper problem than that, as I am sure the hon. lady herself would be the first to recognize. One of the most serious problems standing in the way of ensuring that people receive an education is ensuring that students reach the point where they can enter university.

I should like to say to the hon. lady that I believe it should be the aim of government at all levels to increase the opportunities available to our young people to receive an adequate education, including a university education. I think there is a legitimate difference of view in respect of whether one should begin by providing free university education. These different views are to be found not only among members in this house but also among educational authorities in the provinces.

University education is a provincial responsibility. The federal government can assist to make university education more available only through our help to the universities and through the loans themselves. Perhaps the day will come when free university education will be available, but there are a great many things to be done as well as that. I should like to say that I share the hon. lady's interest in this subject, and that I think that she has made a contribution by bringing it before the house at this time.

*[Translation]*

AGRICULTURE—QUEBEC—FAILURE TO PAY  
FULL MILK SUBSIDY

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I wish to thank the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) who was patient enough to wait until now to hear the question I want to discuss tonight.

On May 5 last, I asked the Minister of Agriculture, on the orders of the day, if he was aware that his efforts to raise to \$4 per cwt. the price of milk containing 3.5 per cent butterfat, as paid to producers, had failed to give the results he expected.

[Mr. Sharp.]

I raised this question so as to call his attention to the fact that dairy producers will not accept anything less than the price they requested and which was promised by the minister.

It will be recalled that last year, the then minister had promised \$3.50 per cwt. for industrial milk. This price was never reached; I warn the minister that we will not accept the same situation this year.

According to reports I have received from two agricultural co-operatives in Abitibi and many dairy producers, the first half of April this year yielded \$3.67 per cwt. at most. This is far from the promised price. The farmers need—and the minister knows it—this minimum of \$4 per cwt. of milk to meet their obligations.

The government can, even if it is not advisable, make good the deficits by increasing taxes and borrowing, but the farmer cannot do so, and indebtedness has certain limits.

I ask the Minister of Agriculture to increase the present subsidy which is inadequate. Otherwise, the factories will have, to reach the price of \$4, to increase the price of butter, casein and other dairy products, and consumers cannot withstand another increase in the cost of living.

The minister must take immediate action in order that the promise he made to Canadian farmers may come true as from April 1 of this year.

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** In reply to question asked by the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) concerning the results of the new dairy policy, may I point out that the payments received by the producers from the processing plants during April apply to March deliveries and that such payments were made under last year's support program. Payments on milk delivered later than April 1 under the new support program are just starting to be paid by several processing plants.

May I further point out that the basic price of \$3.25 per hundredweight is an average price applicable to milk with 3.5 per cent butterfat content. Should the milk indicate a lower content, the payments will necessarily be less.

I should, however, point out to the hon. member that, as I indicated when I announced the support program of the current milk year, the federal government is not empowered to set the prices paid to the