

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

Does the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) know that it costs as much to produce a hundred pounds of industrial milk as it does a hundred pounds of fluid milk? Nonetheless, in the first case the sale price is \$3.65 per hundredweight and in the second one, \$6.50. Does not the minister think that the solution is to allow the same provincial commission to exercise entire control? Thus, all fluid milk surpluses would go to the industry and we would be fair towards all producers.

● (10:20 p.m.)

This is a logical and very sensible position. When no way can be found to deal sensibly with farm administration, when it becomes necessary to bring up the old constitutional argument, there is only one thing left to do and that is to quote the old saying which is especially true in the circumstances: Everyone to his trade, and the cows will be well looked after.

**Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Agriculture was asked if he felt that the constitution should be amended in order to solve the problem of the dairy industry, I am under the impression that had the Chair allowed him to answer, he would not have evaded the question as my hon. friend has just said. Indeed, he would have merely announced or explained that, under the constitution, it is impossible to set a quota at the producer's level in a province or in an area.

The government cannot say to farmers: "You will do what I want you to do and produce the quantity determined by the state." Indeed, that would be violation of the British North America Act.

In setting forth the dairy policy, the minister also knew that for perhaps eight or ten years, agreements have been entered into with the provinces without upsetting anything. At times the constitution is amended in order to put farm organizations in a position to settle their own problems. As regards the Canadian Dairy Commission or the quota system, it would be impossible to do better than is being done now, as long as everyone is instructed on how to proceed. It is very encouraging at the present time to see associations and provinces become conscious of this problem and, without amending the constitution, do the impossible to settle it themselves. Negotiations are under way between producers of natural milk selling at

\$6.50—which price is not set by the government but rather by the consumer who is willing to pay \$6.50—and the consumer who is willing to pay only \$3.60 for industrial milk.

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. There can be no points of order or question of privilege at this stage in our proceedings.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Côté (Richelieu):** Mr. Speaker, I have not much more to say. My hon. friend will no doubt understand that even the farm associations in his constituency work hard since I met their representatives in order to solve the problem. It will not be necessary to change our constitution to do that. The idea does not come from the government nor from the minister; the idea is simply to rationalize agriculture as much as possible at the consumers' level and at the level of the surpluses that foreign countries will be willing to buy. Then, as my hon. friend pointed out, the cows will be well looked after. They seem to be doing quite well indeed, because of the government's policy.

[*English*]

FISHERIES—LOCATION OF FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION PLANT IN WINNIPEG INSTEAD OF SELKIRK

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, on May 27 I asked the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) whether his department would re-examine the decision of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to relocate its processing plant in Winnipeg. The minister replied to the effect that he had no intention of so doing because the decision was the corporation's to make. He argued by implication that the location of the plant was a purely administrative matter and that he had absolutely no responsibility for the ultimate decision of the corporation and its potential effects upon the economic life of the interlake region of Manitoba. It is my contention that his actions in continuing the pretence that the matter is one for the corporation alone to decide represent a monumental avoidance of responsibility, a dereliction of duty unworthy of the minister and the government of which he is a part. I say this because there are definite and transparently obvious policy implications in the eventual decision.