

Interim Supply

Mr. Berger: What result did you achieve for the dairy industry?

Mr. Allard: You just read *Hansard* from 1958 to 1962. In so doing, you will be in good company, with those who spend their time reading instead of doing something to solve the problems of Canada.

An hon. Member: Did you ever call a meeting of the U.C.C.?

[English]

Mr. Bell (Carleton): The hour of 12 minutes before midnight, in my experience and belief, is one for action and not words. At such an hour anything that cannot be said in capsule form is not worth saying.

This is my one minute submission on what I hope is the last night of the first session of the twenty seventh Parliament of Canada.

The dairy policy of this government has been monstrously inadequate, continues to be flagrantly defective and simply must be altered to bring justice and fair play to the most oppressed group of Canadian citizens and their families—the dairy farmers. The injustices visited upon the dairy producers of Canada simply cannot be perpetuated.

I speak from bitter knowledge. Milk at 80 cents a hundred in the 'thirties educated me away from the farm. In this day, the same discriminations which required me to leave the farm are working against young men and women of farm background. The price has not relatively improved. The most significant task for Canada in centennial year is to bring justice to farm people—a fair and reasonable share of the national income. The dairy farmers of Canada ask no more: They cannot be expected to settle for less.

I appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to act—and to act now. Nothing less than \$5.10 per hundred for industrial milk will be reasonable or adequate.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Chairman, at this late hour of midnight in the longest session in the history of the Canadian parliament I think that, even though it is late, it would be less than proper if I did not answer some of the inquiries which have been raised here and attempt to satisfy some of the doubts which appear to be in the minds of members with regard to the current dairy policy.

First, the charge has been made that insufficient progress has been achieved in solving the problems faced by the dairy farmers of Canada. I think we should make the needs and the problems clear. We should find out

[Mr. Allard.]

where we have been and how far we have progressed, for only then will we know whether our policy has been satisfactory or whether it is tending in the right direction. I do not propose for a moment to indicate to the committee or to the dairy farmers that this policy and this program is the perfect or ultimate solution to the problems of Canadian dairy farmers.

• (11:50 a.m.)

I quite concur in many of the remarks made here tonight, that there are very grave problems in the dairy industry, that from the standpoint of income in particular vis-à-vis the income of his industrial counterpart the dairy farmer has a long way to go to achieve economic justice in this country. However, I beg to submit to the house that the program of this government and the direction in which it has been going are attempting forthrightly to put the dairy industry in good shape.

I think it might be most pertinent to put before the house something of the nature of the problem. I know it is very easy to see pat solutions when one does not have responsibility. I note that those who have had responsibility for this problem in the past and have met it to the best of their ability—not completely, and certainly with still a long way to go—were not those who were most critical. Those most critical were those who know very little about the problem or about the program. Those were the loudest, the most vociferous and, as ever, the most certain in their solutions. But if they knew something more of the program and understood a little of it they might not be so ready with their pat solutions to all the problems that beset the dairy farmer.

First of all, I would like to point out that with respect to the dairy farming business, as with any other phase of agricultural production, there are two basic problems. One is price and the other is volume. I think the wheat farmers of western Canada quite appreciate these problems. World wheat prices are one of their concerns, but they know full well a high price with little volume of sales would not be of great benefit to them. This again is the basic problem of the dairy farmer.

It is all very well to suggest \$5.10, or \$6, or \$7 for manufacturing milk, but if these prices are set or fixed, if our support program is engineered to set this kind of price, it will shrink the markets of the dairy farmer to the point where he has no sales, or his sales diminish by a half or three quarters, and the