

The study has been going on for a long time.

—undertaken in close consultation with all the authorities concerned—

After the study there is always the report. During the last five years, I have seen a great deal of studies and reports.

—which would be available to the federal, provincial and municipal governments and to the public generally;—

When there are studies and reports, the provinces and municipalities are not forgotten.

—so that all Canadians will be aware of the problems which lie ahead and so that governments at all levels, will have the best possible advice to assist them in their own planning and in their respective contributions to this great problem.

And further down it reads:

The impact of science, industrialization and urbanization and the changing conditions in Canada and abroad also demand that our agricultural goals and policies should be kept under continuous examination. The government, confident that Canada can look forward in its second century to continuing as one of the great agricultural countries of the world—

Not the way things are proceeding.

—proposes to establish a special task force under the Minister of Agriculture. It will be charged with projecting agricultural goals for the future and recommending policies to meet these goals.

Still nothing tangible: studies, programs, reports. And further down:

At the same time, plans that will permit the retraining—

—again the retraining in the field of agriculture.

—will be developed for those who want to leave the agricultural field.

And that is the way farmers are to be helped. I have seen some of the results of this policy in my riding. When a young farmer expresses the wishes of returning to the farm the farm credit inspectors send him to the city instead. That is the way our agriculture is to be developed.

The changing needs of rural communities deserve special attention. During the present session, you will be asked to approve legislation to provide long term loans to agricultural and fishery associations—

I think that so long as we have studies and teams to prepare plans and more plans, supplying us with reports which in the end will recommend lending more money to our farmers and putting them deeper into debt, we shall be barking up the wrong tree.

The Address—Mr. Gauthier

Today our farmers want to be guaranteed a reasonable price for their products and assured of a market for them.

These are the two main goals which we should try to achieve. Farmers must get a fair price for their products if they want to extend their farms, their property, and increase their production. They do not want to borrow for those things; they would like to do it with their surplus income. It is possible for a farmer to have a surplus income, but his yearly income must exceed \$2,500 or \$3,000, especially if he has eight or nine children at home.

It is imperative that the government discuss such agricultural matters with a more practical approach, in order to be, at last, in a position to assure farmers that they will get a decent price for their products. In the matter of prices, farmers claimed \$5.10 per hundred-weight. They were not joking, for \$5.10 is a minimum.

In my last speech, I asked the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) to use the price of fluid milk, which at present ranges from \$5.70 and \$5.80, as a basis. That is quite different from the \$4.75 maximum price. I say maximum because it is said that the government guarantees \$4.75. Now, that is not true. The federal government only guarantees \$1.11. So let us stop lying to the people. The government has nothing to do with the price paid to producers by processors. As a matter of fact, processors, and we have ample evidence of this today, pay producers the price they choose, or rather, that which they can afford. And I have precisely the proof here. I maintain that it is untrue to say that the price of \$4.75 is guaranteed to farmers. Let us stop lying to farmers and frankly admit what we are giving to them. It is just like saying that farmers are helped with loans. But do you believe that the government is lending to farmers? Capitalists are lending to farmers and the government is merely allowing capitalists to get farmers into debt; the government does not give anything.

In this case, an amount of \$1.11 per hundredweight has finally been granted to farmers, but it is alleged to be \$4.75. This is not true. It amounts to \$1.11 provided that the processor pays to the producer \$3.70 or \$3.80. If he pays \$3.80, \$1.11 is quite satisfactory. I think that may be the price paid in some districts. But in my particular area, Mr. Speaker, and this is what I want to call to your attention—we have the Mistassini dairy.