

brought to agriculture by these marketing agencies that has made Canada one of the major agriculture producing countries in the world.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** What about consumer interests? In the short run consumer interests can best be met by the point I made a minute ago, that is, by a guaranteed subsidy program introduced by the federal government to ensure that calves will survive the winter months. Secondly, the federal government must follow the example of the government of Manitoba and initiate a full inquiry into the beef industry, following the product from the farm or ranch through the meat packing industry to the retail outlets, and eventually to the consumer.

What is needed is a full and comprehensive study of our meat producing industry. I want to stress that any survey that is merely a skimming over of the industry by the Food Prices Review Board will not constitute an adequate substitute for the kind of major inquiry I am calling for now.

Why do we need this inquiry? It would at least provide answers to the following questions. Why is it slaughter prices have dropped more than 10 per cent from last year but the price of sirloin steak has gone up by 25 per cent? Why is it that the profits of the major meat packing firm in Canada, Canada Packers, went up by 36 per cent during the past year? I am comparing March, 1973, with March, 1974. The public have a right to know the answers to these questions. They have a right to know all the facts about the meat producing industry. The government has an obligation to set up the kind of inquiry necessary to provide these facts.

I want to conclude by saying something about the situation outside Canada. I have said we are among the four or five major agricultural producing countries in the world. We are among the four which are capable of exporting food. We are capable of producing more than we need. What all Canadians and people throughout the world find abhorrent is that there should be starvation in many countries of the world, not tomorrow, but today, while we in this country are not maximizing our production of agriculture.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) is here this evening. On behalf of his government he will be attending the world food conference in Rome next week. I suggest that he take to that conference not a general commitment or rhetorical expressions of concern for the well-being of the needy nations in terms of food, but that he go to that conference in Rome with a very specific proposal.

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Surely Canadians are capable of producing enough to meet not only their own needs but also the needs of a great many hungry people of the world. If we had a coherently organized beef producing sector, along with the good organization and productive capacity we find in other sectors of the agricultural industry, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would be in a position to go to Rome and make a commitment on behalf of all Canadians so that people would not have to starve this year, next year or the years to come.

### *Slaughter of Calves*

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say, first and foremost, that one of the things I am appalled at is the cheap politics some people are trying to make out of this issue.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** One of the members of the NDP has made a big bunch of noise about putting the Minister of Agriculture into jail for destroying food. I emphatically deny I have ever done so, and I am amazed that anybody would stoop to tactics that low, knowing my history of aiding other people and taking part in food aid programs. If his party is serious—

**Mr. Broadbent:** On a point of order, if the minister wishes to rise on a question of privilege I respectfully suggest he should do so. If, on the other hand, he wishes to fulfil his obligations and talk about agricultural policy, then I suggest he do so now.

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** If the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) endorses the suggestion of his colleague, he is saying that every Canadian should be put in jail, because every Canadian is, on an average, throwing away 400 pounds of food a year. The eggs which were lost amounted to one and a quarter ounces per person. To suggest that I am responsible for what happened in Quebec—

**Mr. Paproski:** You are.

**Mr. Whelan:** Some more assassination by innuendo. You are one of the greatest I ever saw at that. In a democratic society, when things like that are said by people without any backing whatsoever, they want to do nothing else but destroy, because they figure I stopped them from being over here on these benches—that is the main reason—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** Anyone who says I have not fought for the farmers or not got things done for the farmers since I have been Minister of Agriculture is a stranger to the facts.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby talks about what I have done and what I have not done. I intend to touch on some of the things the government has done to assist the farmers of this nation, especially beef farmers. I would suggest he take a closer look at what was in those pictures last night and learn something about them. Most of those calves were day old calves from dairy herds. They were not beef calves at all. They are dairy calves, and they are not for human consumption until they reach a certain age.

What the minister of agriculture for Quebec has done is a most reasonable thing, and I have complimented him for it in the House of Commons. I would remind hon. members that farmers do not have the same bargaining power