

*Supply—Agriculture*

marketplace, whether it be by means of an incomes policy or otherwise.

I very much appreciate the suggestions of the two hon. members in this regard and I assure them this is an avenue of consideration that is being studied by the government and one which certainly will, I am sure, receive a very comprehensive survey by our task force. I quite appreciate that some very pervasive and fundamental changes will have to be made in the agricultural industry if we are to achieve the kind of income we desire for our Canadian farmers.

Not too much mention of the task force was made by hon. members opposite, but I believe one or two members did ask questions about it. I can only say to those interested in the work of this body that I hold great hopes for the contribution that the task force can make in pointing out the directions in which Canadian agriculture should move and the direction in which parliament should move if we are to achieve the kind of income and economic sufficiency for the farmers that they should have.

To those hon. gentlemen who asked about the task force I can say that it is meeting almost continuously. In fact they were here today and I had a meeting with them. They will be reporting by the end of this year. I have every anticipation that the work of the task force when completed will be compiled in a paper for the perusal of hon. members, and for members of the public generally who are interested in the problem of agriculture. The present intent of the government is that ultimately the findings of the task force will be submitted to a national conclave of one kind or another at the federal and provincial levels, which would include representatives of farm organizations as may be recommended by the task force.

● (9:50 p.m.)

It is quite clear that the problems of agriculture cannot, under the complexities of our constitution, be solved by either the federal or provincial governments alone. This is an area of our economy that very clearly comes within the responsibility of the two.

**The Chairman:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. minister to advise him that his allotted time has now expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**An hon. Member:** No.

[Mr. Greene.]

**The Chairman:** Does the minister wish to continue?

**Mr. Greene:** Apparently hon. members do not consent.

**The Chairman:** Does the committee give its unanimous consent for the minister to continue?

**An hon. Member:** No.

**The Chairman:** There is not unanimous consent.

**Mr. Moore:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of personal privilege. The minister implied that I did not know what I was talking about when I quoted certain figures in my speech. Let me put it on the record that there are many shippers of fluid milk who receive for their surplus \$3.25 per hundred pounds, and many cream shippers who receive something over \$2. With the added payment this means they receive very little more than \$3.30 per hundredweight.

**Mr. McLelland:** Mr. Chairman, I rise to take part in this debate to make sure the Minister of Agriculture understands fully what we are talking about when we refer to western wheat and the importance of this product to western Canada and the whole of this country. Other hon. members from western Canada have done a magnificent job in informing the minister about the problems faced by wheat producers. In order that the minister will fully understand what this is all about I should like to send him two samples of wheat. One sample is western spring wheat, a hard wheat variety, and the other is western Durum wheat, a soft wheat used in the preparation of macaroni, which I am sure the minister has had for supper quite often.

At my delivery point at Loreham, Saskatchewan, No. 2 northern spring wheat netted the farmer this year \$1.47½ per bushel at the elevator, minus the 1 per cent on the cash settlement for P.F.A.A. deductions. No. 3 C.W. Durum wheat, the soft variety, nets the farmer \$1.43½ per bushel. I mention these grades because in our area these are the most prevalent. These are the true prices the farmer receives for wheat at the delivery point for the crop year 1967-68.

These prices will not likely improve because of the low ceiling price obtained for wheat sold on the export market this year. In other words, we do not expect a large final payment next year. The western farmers have