

and there would be approximately 14 pounds of fat cut off that 80 to 90 pound rear quarter.

In other words, meat on a pro rata basis has gone up about 60 cents per pound in the stores whereas it has gone up about three or four cents per pound on the ranches or at the stockyards. There is where the trouble lies.

Let us take a look at what the minister has to say about this situation. I wish I could put more of these figures on the record. On June 14 the minister had this to say when he was dealing with beef, and he repeated it again today:

Federal consumer affairs minister Ron Basford has urged consumers to boycott beef, saying they are the only people who can bring the price down. His statement supported a boycott called by Leon Weinstein, president of the Loblaw Groceries Ltd. supermarket chain.

As the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) pointed out, the president of the Ontario Farmers' Union said that what should be done is to boycott the purchase of everything in that particular chain. The minister has been running around talking about boycotting beef but this would hurt a major industry in Canada which is not guilty, namely, the ranchers or producers of beef.

**Mr. Horner:** The only non-subsidized part of agriculture.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I agree with that. What has the Minister of Agriculture been saying? Let me refer to a release dated June 13, almost the same day the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs supported the boycott. This is what led the Leader of the Opposition to ask his lead-off question during the oral question period, and to say that hypocrisy exists in the government.

The Minister of Agriculture makes the statement that there should not be a boycott, while the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs says that there should be a boycott and at the same time blames the ranchers and housewives of this nation. At least in this regard the Minister of Agriculture has his ear a little closer to the political ground than the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. This is what the Minister of Agriculture said:

Farmers will be using their increased income to expand herds, to build new and better facilities, to experiment with better methods of beef production and to increase the size of their farms. In the long run, consumers will benefit by receiving an increased supply of high quality beef.

The release then states:

Mr. Olson questioned the wisdom of boycott action—

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*Failure to Reduce Prices to Consumers*

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said today that we had better raise our voices against this kind of increase and start boycott action, and then criticized the housewives of this nation. He said we were hypocrites and irresponsible. Somebody has got to go from this wishy-washy government when its members appear to be on both sides of every question that arises in the nation.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Where does Kierans stand on this question?

**Mr. Woolliams:** That is exactly what I was coming to. Thank you, Mr. Leader. We had the same situation in respect of NATO. The Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) was worried about NATO and wanted our troops withdrawn, while at the same time the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) and other ministers were trying to make certain that Canada took some degree of responsibility for our collective security. What hypocrisy that was! How can they sit together? The minister who was the head of housing resigned but these men have no sincerity. They are irresponsible and will not resign.

The Minister of Agriculture questioned the wisdom of boycott action and pointed out that any attempt to take back the increase gained by the beef producers would merely discourage further expansion. What the Minister of Agriculture has said is that if people boycott beef in the stores production will decrease and this will worsen the problem. Let me make it very clear that the producer is not getting a large share of the profit. The real increase in price is not apparent until after the beef leaves the hands of the producer. The pretty little lecture we have had from this great economist, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, leads us to believe that he does not agree with that situation. He had better get together with the Minister of Agriculture.

When the Department of Consumer Affairs was set up I warned, and I repeat now, that it was just window-dressing because the department lacks the constitutional authority to do anything about the high price of food-stuffs and other commodities. The minister refuses to have the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act make an investigation. He refuses to come up with any solution to this problem except for the consumer to boycott beef in the stores. The Canadian people will soon find out, if they have not already, that all the fine