

Development; Mr. Allan MacEachen, Health and Welfare; Mr. H.J. Robichaud, Fisheries; Mr. Roger Teillet, Veterans Affairs; Mr. Maurice Sauvé, Forestry and Rural Development; Mr. Léo Cadieux, National Defence; Mr. J.J. Greene, Agriculture; Mr. Jean-Pierre Côté, Postmaster-General; Mr. Jean Chrétien, Revenue; and Mr. Charles Granger and Mr. Bryce MacKasey, Ministers without Portfolio.

GOVERNMENT DAIRY POLICY

Agriculture Minister J.J. Greene has announced that the Government's dairy stabilization programme effective April 1, will raise returns to farmers through an increase in direct subsidy payments to shippers of manufacturing milk (used in making other products) and cream. Prices of milk products to the consumer will not be affected.

Milk and cream dealers handling a low volume, who will be excluded from subsidy this year, will receive phasing-out assistance.

Mr. Greene said: "The 1968-69 dairy policy is another forward step towards the ultimate goal of a viable dairy industry. We are helping to develop a more efficient industry which will give the dairy farmer a fair return for his labour and his capital investment. At the same time we are assuring the consumer a continuing supply of high quality nutritious dairy products at competitive prices. "This policy is the result of almost continuous consultation with the dairy industry - especially farm organizations. Of course, we have not been able to meet every demand from every milk producer but by and large the programme is pretty much in line with what farmers have suggested."

The 1968-69 programme, as in the past, consists of market price support of major dairy products and direct subsidy to manufacturing milk and cream shippers, under quotas established by the Canadian Dairy Commission.

The direct subsidy will be \$1.31 for each 100 pounds of manufacturing milk testing 3.5 per cent butterfat, with an equivalent rate for cream. This is an increase of ten cents over the 1967-68 subsidy and will provide a support equal to \$4.85 for each 100 pounds of milk at the factory.

SURPLUS STOCK

The cost of exporting surplus dairy products however, will be charged to producers through a deduction from their gross subsidy, which continues the practice that was established two years ago.

Heavy stocks of skim milk powder have accumulated and must be sold in export markets. Because the export price is low, the holdback from milk shippers by the Commission will be increased to 15 cents a hundredweight from 11 cents last year. The producer's net subsidy after deducting the export assistance holdback will be \$1.6. The subsidy added to the market price will give the producer a return of \$4.70 - an increase of six cents above last year's return.

NEW VIETNAM COMMISSIONER

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced on April 10 the appointment of Mr. Richard M. Tait as the new Canadian Commissioner to the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam. Mr. Tait will be replacing Mr. Ormand W. Dier, who has completed his tour of duty in Vietnam and will be returning for service in Ottawa.

Mr. Tait, at present Head of the Aid and Development Section of Economic Division, Department of External Affairs, joined the Department in 1955 and has served in Athens, at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and later, as an Adviser to the Canadian Delegation to the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee.

MENTAL RETARDATION STUDY

A Canadian social scientist says that Canada's estimated 600,000 mentally retarded are still largely an invisible group, and that communities will have to find out more about them before they can properly plan facilities and programmes.

Dr. C.W. Portal-Foster, director of research at the Canadian Welfare Council, says that to help fill this void in knowledge, the Council has just started a study of the incidence of mental retardation. The first phase of the study, to be conducted in Prince Edward Island, is supported by a grant from the Mental Retardation Fund of the Welfare Grants Division, Department of National Health and Welfare. Dr. Portal-Foster will direct the study.

"Little is known about 'retardates' in Canada because they have the astonishing ability to become lost in the masses," the research director explained. This was partly owing, he said, to the reticence of families concerning their mentally retarded members and because families have always been able to provide for such handicapped members at least their basic needs. "Mental retardation is now accepted as a condition distinct from mental illness," the director said, "and society has begun to accept the mentally retarded at a phenomenal rate."

The Council chose Prince Edward Island for the study because it has the most advanced services for the mentally retarded in North America; it is a separate political entity with a small and stable population; some 90 per cent of the trainable and non-trainable retarded in the province have been studied by a team of child psychiatrists; and it is estimated that all trainable retardates in P.E.I. are enrolled in day-training class facilities.

Dr. Portal-Foster sees the study as providing new hope for Canada's mentally retarded and their parents. Of the estimated 600,000 retardates, some 579,000 are living at home. It is estimated that 525,000 of Canadian retardates are capable of becoming either fully or partially self-supporting through vocational training or long-term employment.