

Supply—External Affairs

pounds; Canadian council of churches, 327,000 pounds; Care of Canada, 14.1 million pounds; Canadian Red Cross Society, 60,000 pounds, Canadian save the children fund, 147,000 pounds; Gold Cross, 30,000 pounds. These figures make a total of 64,512,182 pounds.

(Translation):

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, next year if we had to provide for the relief of needy people, would we be able to do so?

In other words, is there any milk powder left in storage which we could supply to relief agencies?

(Text):

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The surplus that existed some time ago has been practically disposed of. I have given the figures, Mr. Chairman, of the gifts to these eight organizations aggregating 64½ million pounds. Broadly speaking, there is no surplus on hand now.

Mr. Benidickson: May I also ask the minister this question? Am I right in thinking that no support is being given to skimmed milk at the present time?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is correct.

Mr. Benidickson: What I mean is that the crown is not obliged to pay anything for the support of skimmed milk under this legislation.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is correct.

Mr. Peters: Can the minister tell us whether any of this skimmed milk powder that has been distributed went to Japan? If so, is some of it the skimmed milk powder that has been involved in the recent reports of serious illness as a result of school distribution of this product or is there any further information as to what the actual cause of this occurrence was? If there is not, is the department considering making an investigation in that particular country on our behalf in order to clarify this problem? I think it is generally conceded by all Canadians that there is certainly nothing in skimmed milk powder to produce the results that are indicated and that contamination must have taken place from some other source. As we have established an international market for skimmed milk powder, I think we should protect it and maintain the reputation that I think we have built up and the good will that we have established by the gifts we have made amounting to, as the minister has just told us, some 64 million pounds.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think the minister made a statement in regard to this matter in the house several days ago. I

think the hon. gentleman probably will find his answer in *Hansard* in the minister's statement.

Item agreed to.

651. To reimburse the agricultural commodities stabilization account for canned pork donated to Japan for the relief of typhoon victims, \$60,000.

Mr. Chevrier: Can the minister tell the committee whether there is still a supply of canned pork on hand?

Mr. Benidickson: We are on vote 651.

Mr. Chevrier: Yes; that is the one. Can the minister tell the committee whether there is still in the warehouses a supply of canned pork? What amount was given to Japan? Does the government contemplate giving additional amounts?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The answer is that there is still a quantity of canned pork on hand, very definitely. Second, the gift to Japan consisted of 100,000 pounds of canned pork purchased at a price of 60 cents per pound, the item here being \$60,000.

Mr. Winch: May I ask the Minister of Finance whether he can give an explanation of a peculiar quirk in economics. We have had a great deal of canned pork purchased by the government in order to stabilize the pork producers of this country. We gave it away in these instances. I have no question about that matter at all. We try to sell it at give-away prices, and if the minister would take his wife's place and do some shopping he would find on the shelves a canned pork meat loaf which is imported from France. Can he explain the economics of that situation?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I would not think it would be a very general situation that the hon. member has described. How much canned pork comes into this country from France I do not know, but I would think that canned pork from an outside country at the present time would find it difficult to make much headway in Canada with the quantities of pork being produced here and the fact that, under our price support program, such a very large quantity of it is on hand.

Mr. Winch: The thing that brought the matter to my mind is that half an hour ago I got a letter from one of your constituents asking me to find out why.

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister said it would be hard to sell French canned pork in this country. Is the government selling any of its own canned pork?