

Oral Questions

the provincial ministers of agriculture to discuss this subject.

SUGGESTED REDUCTION IN IMPORTATION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Considering that this matter is very important and that it has been alleged that there are surpluses and the dairy producers ought to be penalized, could the minister assure the House that the import policy of dairy products which could be produced at home will involve a reduction of these products, thus helping solve this problem so that in the coming months we will not run the risk of having, as it happened two years ago, to import tremendous amounts to the detriment of Canadian farmers and, in particular, of Quebec dairy producers.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the hon. member that the government has decided this year to limit cheese imports to 50 million pounds while we had made commitments to import much more, and that we take a close look at the situation to try to reduce imports, as the Minister of Agriculture has often pointed out in this House.

● (1430)

[English]

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO DAIRY FARMERS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question relates to the problem of dairy farmers in Ontario, and it is also for the President of the Treasury Board. In the light of the fact that dairy farmers across Ontario have now received their subsidy cheques for May and that these cheques have been cut substantially—one of my constituents who not only did not receive payment for the \$3,100 worth of milk he shipped but also received a bill for \$170—what assistance is the government prepared to make available to dairy farmers to save them from imminent bankruptcy? They have to pay their bills.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the government is aware of that situation. In fact, I received a certain number of farmers in my office on Saturday who explained the problem to me. We are looking into that, and I think the Minister of Agriculture is supposed to meet with some provincial ministers of agriculture to try to find a way out. However, I am not the Minister of Agriculture; I am just doing my best to answer the hon. member.

POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN FORMULA FOR ALLOCATING QUOTAS FOR INDUSTRIAL MILK

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture perhaps I could address the following question to the Acting Prime Minister. In the light of the fact that the President of the Treasury Board pointed out that the present formula for allocating quotas between the prov-

[Mr. Chrétien.]

inces actually encourages over production, what recommendations, if any, is the federal government making to reform this formula to remove the disincentives from producing within the provincial quota?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when he was answering similar questions the other day the Minister of Agriculture explained in the House that the most important problem relates to the internal allocation of quotas. He stated, for example, that in Manitoba there is no problem of this kind.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: Oh yes there is.

Mr. Clark: Send Jim Richardson home.

Mr. Sharp: The problem is one which involves co-operation between the provinces and the federal government. The Minister of Agriculture will be making some proposals which will fulfill our part of the bargain, and I hope the provinces will act with similar goodwill.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

ALLEGED PROVISION OF UNITED STATES COMPANY WITH LIST OF THOSE IN RECEIPT OF OLD AGE PENSIONS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister completed his inquiries into the question raised on June 7 about the alleged supplying by his department to a United States mailing list company, the names of people in receipt of old age pensions?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is Mr. Diefenbaker's question.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You don't seem interested; don't you want the answer?

Mr. Lalonde: This allegation was promptly investigated. I checked with the officials of my department, who checked with all government sources. There is no indication that the list provided to a United States company came from any government. As a matter of fact, on the basis of the content of the list with which I was provided, it appears that it could not have come from government sources for a number of technical reasons, such as zip codes and so on.

We have checked with the United States company, and the president of the company has clearly stated that the information came from public records. Moreover, the president of the company has volunteered to put in future a disclaimer on all such forms to the effect that they are not