

*Supply*

to them in order to profit from the market that is out there and to get away from our low-priced product, which is wheat.

In conclusion, I want to digress a bit from agriculture and talk again about the question of who gets what out of Confederation. I am sure that hon. members of the Bloc are aware of a recent study that indicated that over the last ten years Quebec has had a net benefit of payments in, over-taxation out of \$168 billion. During that same period the province of Ontario has come up short by \$45 billion. Do not let us ever forget that my neighbouring province of Alberta, during the days of the national energy policy, had to forgo \$90 billion in revenue in order to support the economies of the two central Canadian provinces. I find it more than passing strange that those of us who want to hold our country together, who care about this country, are the ones who have been paying the bills, and the people who want to tear it asunder are the ones who have been benefiting the most economically from Confederation. They are saying, in effect: "We want to be free; we want to go it alone, but please, keep giving us money".

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ):** Madam Speaker, the distinguished colleague who spoke just before me, a member of the Reform Party from the west, criticized the members of the Bloc Québécois for defending our country, Quebec. I would like to give him a short history lesson.

In 1837, the Government of Quebec was dissolved from London. Three years later, in 1840, Lower and Upper Canada were united—an easy matter because there was no longer a government in Quebec. The problem, however, was that Quebec was thrifty and did not want to go into debt like the government has since 1970, surely and consistently. Quebec was only 85,000 pounds in debt, while Ontario was 1.2 million pounds in debt.

As there was only one government to decide—the government of Ontario—it was decided that the two debts should be combined into a single one. This is how Quebec has been treated for years. Today, they have the gall to blame us for criticizing injustices. I will not take it. I will not.

• (1515)

Producers in the three western provinces are being offered \$1.6 billion, interest and tax free, in compensation for the disappearance of the WGTO. They do not even have to declare it for tax purposes. In Quebec, each milk producer is going to be penalized some \$5,000 on average and will be receiving absolutely no compensation. Nothing.

The worst part of all of this is that western producers will use the compensation to diversify their production and will move into Quebec markets to compete against us with the help of tax dollars we gave the government. Take hogs, for example. I am

talking about the period from 1981 to 1991. After 1991, things tend to intensify and will get worse after 1996. There is no supply management in hog production. Are you aware that, in ten years, western hog production grew by 39 per cent, over 39 per cent? In the same time period, in Quebec, production dropped by 16 per cent. How about that?

In terms of surface used, hothouse production in the west has grown by 67 per cent, while the increase in Quebec is barely 46 per cent, despite the fact that the markets are in Ontario and Quebec. I promise you that, each time we have the opportunity, the members of the Bloc Québécois will rise in this House to criticize both Liberal and Reform Party members for failing to have a global vision of this country; for never setting foot in Quebec, for the most part; and for claiming that Quebec is still griping and asking for more. We have paid more than our share in this country.

[English]

**Mr. Morrison:** Madam Speaker, I liked that little history lesson at the beginning. Unfortunately I do not see what relevance it has to what we are debating today, current economic conditions in Canada.

Since the hon. member has only left me one moment, I will have to direct myself to one of his statistics. He talks about an increase in the hog production, I believe he said 39 per cent in the west and a decrease of 16 per cent in Quebec. With the feed freight assistance, if the farmers of Quebec cannot compete with the west, he is bad mouthing his own province. He is speaking ill of Quebec. I would not think of doing that.

We are progressive. We are working hard to diversify. We are not asking for handouts and as far as the \$1.6 billion, all the hon. member has done is reiterate his previous arguments. He did not raise anything new. He said the same thing over—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** Resuming debate.

[Translation]

**Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, I will share my time with the hon. member for Guelph—Wellington.

So far, it seems that Bloc members are choosing the issues in which they would like to intervene. They chose to remain silent in the Montreal and Vancouver port disputes but today's debate is another example of the partisan way in which the Bloc Québécois chooses the causes it wants to defend.

I would like to explain a few things about the dairy subsidy announced in the last budget.

• (1520)

First, it should be pointed out that this government is formally committed to maintaining an orderly marketing system for dairy