

*Agricultural Policies*

sive basis. It has said, and the process has already begun, that it will withdraw basic subsidies on farm products. Those subsidies have been built up over the years in order to make equal the lot of the farmer and those in other segments of the Canadian economy, and in order that his living standards might be the same as the standards of those who engage in industry. But the government has indicated that it will withdraw subsidies.

What has happened to the dairy industry of Canada, that industry which has always been the pride and joy of Canadians? What has happened to it? In the past five years we have seen the dispersment of, not of hundreds, but thousands of dairy herds in Canada.

**Mr. McCleave:** Shame.

**Mr. Danforth:** Farmers in Canada today are producing enough to meet demands only because, as a result of the research undertaken by the Department of Agriculture into methods of feeding and production, production per farm unit has increased. The government's dairy policy is almost beyond comprehension. Dairy farmers in Canada, especially those involved with the manufacturing milk side of the industry, are told not only how much milk to produce but are fined if they produce more than their quotas. This is the government's policy at a time when the consumers of the nation are paying the highest price for milk in the history of Canada and when we are importing powdered milk from other countries.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Shame.

**Mr. Danforth:** That if what is happening in the dairy industry, that industry of which Canada was so proud.

We produce the finest grain in the world and had a tremendous share of the international market. Yet the government is now bribing farmers not to produce grain. When I say "bribing" I use the word kindly, because I think that blackmailing would be closer to the truth.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The government is bribing farmers with their own money.

**Mr. Danforth:** What has happened in the tobacco industry, that industry that is worth half a billion to us? The government is actively curbing the use of tobacco. I do not quarrel with that when health hazards are involved; but we must remember that Canada is one of the prime tobacco producers of the world. The industry is concentrated in regions

of Canada where the technology of tobacco growing is second to none. Instead of condemning and selling an industry down river, is it not logical to expect the government to promote research in order that we might develop a tobacco acceptable to people which would not contain alleged harmful ingredients? This is not impossible and could be done through plant breeding and other processes. Our plant breeders with the Department of Agriculture are second to none and, if they were seized with this problem, I do not doubt that they could accomplish this. But they are not told to undertake this research, and I think the government ought to take the initiative in this regard.

What do we find in our livestock industry? Many farmers are being kept on the farm today only because they produce beef, poultry and swine.

**Mr. Olson:** What about corn?

**Mr. Danforth:** Since the livelihoods of so many depend on these commodities, you would think that the government would adopt promotional measures to make sure that these parts of the agricultural industry do not fall victim to the government's economic policies. By actually encouraging the importation of poultry, beef, pork, turkeys and even of eggs, the government is crippling the only segments of agriculture that remain on the blue side of the ledger today. I think the hon. member who preceded me was correct when he said that the agricultural industry in Canada cannot survive unless the government adopts a long-range policy that will encourage the long-range investments which are necessary if we are to carry on the type of agriculture that will meet the world demand, world prices and world competition. But this should be the task of the government.

What is happening in trade? By its actions, this government has demonstrated that it no longer thinks Canadian agriculture important. I say this advisedly. The government is doing two things which actively demonstrate my point. First, it is entering into trade agreements involving development in some of the minor nations under which we shall accept agricultural products in return for heavy equipment. Second, the government is adopting today what it calls a new policy of supply management, whatever that may mean. What the government means by supply-management is that it will curtail Canadian production to meet the needs only of our domestic consumption and our dwindling segment of