

Interim Supply

concurrent responsibility in the fields of agriculture and farming and in that concurrent responsibility, it is provided under the constitution and according to judgments passed by the Privy Council that the central government has the priority.

This is precisely a field where the central government, which likes to claim that it must be strong and powerful, that it must have all possible authority to legislate and solve problems, should exercise its authority.

This is precisely a field, agriculture, where there is a constitutional and legal priority, and instead of exercising its responsibility adequately, according to the needs of our farmers and dairy producers, the present government prefers to keep all the money in Ottawa. It wants to intrude in fields under the provincial jurisdiction instead of exercising its full authority, its absolute discretion in fields placed under its jurisdiction by the constitution.

Thus, the present government prefers to establish education allowances for students, a field under the exclusive jurisdiction of provinces. The government prefers to set up retirement pensions, municipal loans, when such areas are within the exclusive jurisdiction of provincial governments. They would rather make loans to university students, when this is a field directly related to education, which is a matter of exclusive provincial jurisdiction under section 93.

The present central government would rather get into the field of hardship and poverty, infringing upon provincial responsibilities, paying old age security pension supplements which are already beginning to cause dissatisfaction among senior citizens and provincial governments. Again this afternoon, to the great satisfaction of Liberal members from Quebec, it pushed through legislation concerning the occupational training of adults, a field which falls, directly or indirectly, within the scope of education. It handles enough money to play the role of Croesus, to get in every nook and corner of the Canadian house when it does not behave him to do so. But when times come for it to use its authority, to legislate, to step in directly into the field of agriculture, to implement a policy aptly expressed by the representatives of the farmers and milk dairy producers, oh no. It would rather set an objective of \$120 million. No one knows why. No explanation is given. I am quite convinced that the hon. minister does not know himself. It was probably set by some bureaucrat or other, on the third, or

eighth floor of the building. It was set at \$120 million.

And that is called agricultural planning in Canada. Setting an objective of \$120 million without knowing whether it meets adequately the needs of the eastern farmers and dairy producers.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, which gives much pleasure and satisfaction to the Liberal members from Quebec who are looking at me, I say to the hon. minister, hoping that he is not asleep at this late hour, that it is time to convene the representatives of the C.F.U. and the Federation of Dairy Producers.

● (11:40 p.m.)

Let him not wait for the abcess to fester. Let him call them and set up a true agricultural policy on a short and a long term basis but through consultations with the organizations concerned.

Thus, when he announces the agricultural policy, either a comprehensive or a particular policy for industrial milk, he will be in a better position to meet the needs of the population.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Allard: Surely.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, in view of this new agricultural vocation discovered by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) who might deserve congratulations, if it were real, and in view of what he has just said a few minutes ago, I should like to know, when he was a member of a very strong party between 1958 and 1962, what great influence, what major role he played, particularly as far as dairy policy is concerned, as a member of a government which at the time was in a position to do much more, while he was one of the pillars of such an ivory tower or possibly a monument with feet of clay, what influence did he exert at that time, at a time when he was a member of an important party?

Mr. Allard: Mr. Chairman, I am most pleased to reply to the hon. member.

All he has to do is what some ministers are doing now, that is read *Hansard* all the time. Let him search through the index in the parliamentary library and he will see the numerous interventions I made to help solve the various problems of our people and those of the province of Quebec in particular.

So it is quite easy to reply—