

comply with a requirement of the Council, this is what we read, and I quote:

—is guilty of

(a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or

(b) an offence punishable on summary conviction.

We are therefore making arrangements to jail farmers. It is obvious that if they are put in prison they will not be able to produce. We will then be able to cut down surpluses.

Penalties have already been imposed. All farmers are not in jail, but we have reached a point where the situation is deteriorating, and I wonder whether many of them would not be more in security behind bars.

I am very sorry that the milk production problem was not dealt with before introducing Bill C-197. I regret that this bill was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). In the final analysis, we know that when the worker has problems he goes to his fellow-worker to negotiate his working conditions. If the union leader has some competence, negotiations will be fruitful. When a student has problems, he goes to his professors or to counselors who help him.

When we have health problems, we go to a doctor. If he says he is unable to help us, he then sends us to a specialist.

• (9:10 p.m.)

Unfortunately, the officials of the federal Department of Agriculture have proved their ineffectiveness, and consequently we are always up against the same so-called "champs", so-called "know-it-all", even though they know nothing.

We know the Minister of Agriculture operates a farm and that he does not go in for dairy farming although he has a 500-cow herd. Thanks to his herd, and nature, the Minister sells 400 to 500 calves every year. And so, he owns calving cows.

Today, if we are facing a serious problem, it is in the dairy farming industry. It is obvious that the minister is beyond his depth.

In spite of everything, we still expect him to introduce a beneficial policy, but because of his ignorance, he must appeal to the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Côté) who is quite pleased to make his remarks. It is common knowledge the minister and his parliamentary secretary merely keep floundering along. Moreover, it must be remembered that the hon. member for Richelieu hastened to sell his cows three weeks after his election and it can be inferred therefore that dairy farming was more or less important to him. It is

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unfortunate that the farmer who is now directing the government's dairy policy has found no other way of showing his knowledge than to sell his cows.

Perhaps he found out that having one in Parliament is as profitable as 25 in the cowshed. At any rate, it is remembered that the hon. member for Richelieu, who is messing about with the dairy policy now, was not even a dairy farmer but a cattle farmer and dealer, and especially a good dealer.

One can remember also that he was part of the gimmick, that he could export all his cattle to Mexico, Spain and South America. All that to say that while the hon. member for Richelieu is still spluttering in English, it could be that the last calves he sold can speak Spanish fluently.

Mr. Speaker, I say once more that dairy farming was of little importance to that ex-farmer and I am convinced he would sell his wife to save the Liberal government's dairy policy.

The Minister of Agriculture announces a \$10 million reduction for the Quebec farmers. He cannot indeed be commended for that. The costs of exports have gone from 26 cents in 1968 to 51 cents in 1969. It can be recalled that the farmers of the province of Quebec, and more particularly those of the eastern part of that province, have been imposed quotas in 1967. In fact, at that time, owing to the bad weather, crops had not been good. Milk production had suffered from it. That opportunity was taken to set production quotas. It is surely a good deal for the government, but I am not prepared to admit that it is honest. The hon. member for Richelieu does not object to that.

If a farmer—

Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Côté (Richelieu): Would the hon. member for Frontenac—

An hon. Member: —for Portneuf.

Mr. Côté (Richelieu): —for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) allow me simply to explain what happened at the Committee on Agriculture when two of his *Créditiste* colleagues were there