

Interim Supply

processing of more tonnage of dairy products, not less. The long promised dairy commission could be a factor in bringing this about. It could direct our national processing operation and manage, channel and, yes, price our national exports. This commission must be permanent. This commission must be non-political. This commission must be made up of men who know the dairy industry and the interprovincial and international nature of its trade operations. I ask the Minister of Agriculture again, when can Canada expect to gain the services of such a body? I say the sooner the better.

I make one more point for the producer and processor of milk. Many people are of the opinion that milk in general is overpriced. This is not so. It always has been the lowest price food having regard to protein content value. The general ratings are as follows for protein: milk is rated at 2.40; fish is rated at 2.70; vegetables at 4.00 and meat—steak, that is—at 5.17.

Milk has long been underpriced. It is far cheaper than any man-made beverage and it is a staple necessity on our way of life. Let us see that the whole industry, especially the independent Canadian milk processors, retain their right to exist and prosper.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I have a few remarks to make. I had prepared a speech on unemployment insurance, but I had no idea the debate on interim supply would last so long. I will, therefore, only touch on the subject lightly.

The people of my riding have been very disappointed to learn that the unemployment office in the area will be closed down.

The decision was taken at the top level of the administration. We learned about it in the press. We lost our unemployment insurance office. When people in the area have something to straighten out with the unemployment insurance office, they will have to travel 100 miles to meet with the officers. There may be a good side to it because those officers will not be so busy. There will be fewer visits to their office. Now that this is done, will it be for better or for worse? Time will tell. But I know that this government will have to shoulder the responsibility, for it authorized the move. And only time will tell whether the bureaucrats were right in taking such action.

I had already received, just like the government, a petition protesting against this move.

But now everything is done and we must grudgingly bear the consequences.

What surprised me, in connection with the speeches we are hearing, is the turn over some days on a particular subject affecting the Department of National Defence, namely the unification of the three armed forces.

Mr. Chairman, what surprised me to a lesser degree is that, as they have always done, Conservatives keep on playing politics, delaying needlessly the business of the house. It is always the same story. Conservatives cry out during this debate on National Defence policy: back down, reverse your decisions, and every time it is for the same purpose, namely to accuse the government and then blame them for having backed down on their decisions, for having taken one step ahead, then one step backwards, and constantly chopping and changing.

I wish to pay tribute to the hon. Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) for maintaining his positions and demanding that the bill be dealt with according to normal procedure. We all know that the bill must undergo second reading before committee consideration takes place. At least this is what I gather from my four years' experience sitting in this house. And the Conservatives want to force the hon. minister to depart from regular procedure, so that they can then blame him for having done so.

• (7:10 p.m.)

Well, in that regard the minister deserves congratulations. In order to excuse their actions, the Conservatives invent all kinds of reasons, each one as contradictory as the other. We have an example in the speech given this afternoon by the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees). In fact, he accused the minister of misinforming the public. Can you imagine that? Since the minister put out his white paper, the public is said to be misinformed. Not only that, we are told, "We know nothing about the bill." Should he not know at least as much as the public at large? And again, to oppose unification, he says the change of uniform is going to demoralize our soldiers. What childishness.

Mr. Chairman, it is often said that it is not the cowl that makes the monk and I think this is true in the army. Courage is not in the pair of pants, but in the soldier's soul and heart. For our part, we are for unification, and we estimate that it will be good and efficient and that it will save this country some money. These days, all countries try to unify for