

National Energy Board

[Later:]

DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENT ON DAIRY
SUPPORT PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gabriel Roberge (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement he just made to the house with regard to support prices, does the minister think it proper, or is it possible, for him to have copies of this statement distributed to all members of this house before his estimates come up this afternoon for study?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): I made the statement, Mr. Speaker, and I should have thought hon. members would be able to take down any figures they wanted in connection with it. I certainly have not taken steps to have this reproduced so I could give a statement to every member of the house, particularly as the statement will appear in *Hansard*. I do not think there is any necessity for this.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): A supplementary question. Does the minister not think, in view of the fact that he will be dealing with his estimates today, and as this is a matter of great importance, that he ought to furnish the members of this house with as many copies as he has available? If not, we will have them run off by the national Liberal federation.

[Later:]

Mr. Roberge: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture arising out of previous questions put to him. Do we understand from what the minister said that his estimates are not going through this afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is rather seeking to enter into a controversy over this subject instead of seeking information.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, Mr. Speaker. Hon. gentlemen opposite, I know, wish to accommodate the opposition just as the previous administration accommodated them. The question raised by the hon. member for Megantic is a legitimate one. I ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will not—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member for Essex East is dealing with the question of the hon. member for Megantic as a point of order I will hear him on that, but if he wants to ask a question himself it is a different matter.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I submit with great respect, Mr. Speaker, that the hon.

member was not looking for an argument when he asked an important question as an hon. member of this house. We are about to have the agricultural estimates before us. The announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture today deals with an important aspect of agricultural policy. Hon. members who did not have any notice of this statement cannot be expected to appreciate all of its implications. We are simply asking the minister if he will not accommodate us by letting us have available copies so that today when these estimates are before us, and not tomorrow, we might be prepared to examine very carefully his statements on price supports as they affect dairy products.

Mr. Speaker: If that is the question I have no objection to it being asked. We have been over the ground before.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I might say that immediately upon the request being made I sent a note to my private secretary asking him to send two copies to the Liberal party and one to the C.C.F. party, if available, or more copies if they could be obtained.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Thank you very much.

[Later:]

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, with reference to the request a few minutes ago for copies of the statement on dairy products, may I say that I think members of the opposition have six or seven copies now, and here are about 20 more which I will put on the clerk's table.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I want to thank the minister but the national Liberal federation has already reproduced it.

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION,
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, ETC.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the establishment and operation of a national energy board and the appointment of its members and staff, to define its duties, to authorize it to exercise certain powers and to provide for other related and incidental matters.

Motion agreed to.