

*Dissatisfaction with Dairy Policy*

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian economy cannot afford another strike of that kind. I think that the debate is urgent and that it is our duty to discuss the matter today and without any further delay.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I hope I may be allowed to suggest to hon. members that I be given an opportunity soon to rule on the motion. I do not wish to cut off discussion as a few hon. members apparently wish to contribute further. I hope the debate will not continue too much longer and that I shall have an opportunity shortly to give an expression of opinion.

**Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin):** I just wish to add a few words in support of the motion of the hon. member for Villeneuve, because nothing could be more urgent at this time than the matter he has raised. Dairy farmers are still quitting in alarming numbers. For that in many ways the new policy of the government is responsible. Furthermore, discrimination has been practised against fluid milk shippers, who received some subsidy last year but no subsidy this year.

It is said that fluid milk shippers are under provincial jurisdiction. I think it is ridiculous for a province to be asked to subsidize the portion of surplus fluid milk sold as manufacturing milk when it does not subsidize manufacturing milk sold by those who sell no fluid milk for distribution. That sort of thing makes no sense.

Nothing can be more urgent or of more importance to our country at this time than the matter raised in the hon. member's motion.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, being one of the sponsors of the adjournment motion moved by my friend, the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), I should like to make a few observations concerning the urgency of this debate.

All the members who spoke before me recognized such an urgency. On the government side everybody remains silent, which is proof of the urgency of the debate, for none of them opposed it except the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill), who was not too sure about it.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I submit the urgency of debate exists. In 1966, Canadian dairy producers got rid of 86,000 milch cows

and we have now reached the lowest level in 46 years as regards dairy cattle.

This is one of the points proving the urgency of debating the whole question. The government should assume its own responsibilities and grant dairy producers a fair price for their products. We also note that in addition to the march the farmers intend to make on Ottawa soon, a number of them are planning to give up dairy production, if the government does not take immediate steps to enable them to get a reasonable price for their farm products.

Such is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, on the urgency of this debate.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to add a couple of words; I shall take a minute only. Last week I raised a question dealing with the support for surplus milk. I asked why the support was removed from the surplus milk shipped by fluid milk shippers of this country. The only answer I received was from the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, that this matter came under provincial responsibility. In 1966 it was recognized that it came under federal responsibility; why should that have been changed in 1967. The effect is to depress farmers' incomes.

That farmers have threatened to dump milk right across the country is a deplorable state of affairs in a hungry world, and I hope the threat is never carried out. If it is, the government will be held responsible for ignoring the pleas of farmers and others supporting them.

The shippers of manufacturing milk will not receive \$4.75 a hundredweight, as has been suggested, because the export subsidy or export charge is subtracted from the amount paid, reducing that figure. Cream shippers are in an even worse position. The quota system, as has been suggested by the dairy commission and some persons in the Department of Agriculture, is most confusing and entirely unsatisfactory to meet the needs of farmers. In fact everybody is confused, and the milk shippers are in a furious state about present day conditions. I agree with the hon. member for Villeneuve.

• (3:20 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. May I draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that I am now in a position to make a ruling. I know that contributions made at the beginning by