

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Howard: I take it the freeze has been completely thawed out in this item.

Mr. Byrne: We are selling soft cheese now.

Mr. Hays: I think we indicated today that with regard to the three combined grants, warehouses, cheese and cold storage, we had approved 13. I think there are six applications that are being looked at now.

Mr. Howard: Are those applications under the Cold Storage Act, or the Cheese and Cheese Factory Improvement Act?

Mr. Hays: I am not sure of the separation of these; but this combines all three.

Mr. Howard: What I wanted to know primarily was this. We have complained about this situation time and time again, and the Minister of Transport used to do the same thing when he was in opposition. I refer to the operation of the Cold Storage Act and the fact that because it is primarily in the hands of the Department of Agriculture, and because the great bulk of grants and subventions under the Cold Storage Act are for agricultural products, fisheries products applications and cold storage warehouses for fisheries products generally have gotten short shrift from the Department of Agriculture. All I am trying to do is see if we cannot bring some spring thaw to bear on the freeze that applies under the Cold Storage Act.

The other day the minister said there was a partial lifting of this austerity program. He did not go any further than that. I wonder if he could tell us just how his department is operating in connection with the Cold Storage Act. Is the minister agreeing to applications? Has he partially lifted the freeze? What is the criteria; what is the reason? How does one application qualify, when another does not? It would be very helpful to us if we could obtain this information.

Mr. Hays: Mr. Chairman, I may say to the hon. member that the Minister of Transport is doing his very best to thaw us out every day.

Mr. Howard: The Minister of Transport is dealing with a variety of other things. If he spends too much time applying heat to you, then other things in his department are liable to go a little awry; and we have some problems for him also. How about acting on your own initiative, and never mind the prodding of the Minister of Transport?

Mr. Pickersgill: It is going to be flowing shortly.

Mr. Howard: The minister says it is going to be flowing shortly. One could easily expand upon that word "flowing"; it could apply to all sorts of things.

[Mr. Hays.]

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if we could unfreeze some of these estimates the minister would have a little time to give to unfreezing this matter.

Mr. Howard: That is quite true, but the minister has had all sorts of spare time at his disposal on 'plane and car trips, and so on, recently. It is a wonder he did not do it then, rather than waiting until the last minute and saying that if we unfreeze the estimates, he can do it. I take it, Mr. Chairman, that the minister has agreed that he is going to lift the freeze under the Cold Storage Act, that the Minister of Transport is going to help him lift it and the friends of the Minister of Transport in the cabinet—if he has any—are going to help him to this.

Item agreed to.

Production and marketing branch—

60e. Fruit and vegetable division—Assistance in construction of potato warehouses under terms and conditions approved by the governor in council, \$117,000.

Mr. Thomas: Mr. Chairman, could the minister tell us where these potato warehouses are located?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Chairman, they are located at Joliette, Mont Laurier and Isle Verte.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, before I ask my question, I should like to say how thrilled we would be, while the house is in committee, to hear the eloquent Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) talk to us about agriculture, for he loved to dwell on that subject when he was in opposition and he proved he could talk about agriculture. We are surprised at his diplomatic silence. Now, here is the question I should like to put to the Minister of Agriculture: Was he officially asked by the department of agriculture of the province of Quebec to amend the legislation concerning the construction of potato warehouses? Did he receive a request from the Quebec department of agriculture about that?

[Text]

Mr. Hays: If it has been received by the department, it has not arrived at my desk.

Item agreed to.

76e. Health of animals division—Payment of compensation to owners of animals affected with diseases coming under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, which have died or have been slaughtered in circumstances not covered by the above act and regulations made thereunder, all as detailed in the estimates, \$7,946.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if there are any districts in