

*Supply—Agriculture*

on getting a fresh product, and Mr. Descôteau sells 893,000 pounds of cheese per year, this represents a heavy loss for him.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Descôteau had to boost his retail price by 4 cents a pound this week, in order to pay the farmers the price he received last year. And if you take into account the increase of 4 cents per pound in the retail price of cheese, this can only mean a lower consumption. In fact, we may wonder where we are going, since last year 1963-64, in Canada, the consumption of cheddar cheese was 99.9 million pounds, as against 102 million pounds in 1962-63. This means that last year, the Canadian consumption of cheddar cheese went down by 2.1 million pounds—

[Text]

**Mr. Hays:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. member where he got these figures from.

**Mr. Vincent:** These figures were sent by the Department of Agriculture to *La Terre de Chez Nous*.

**Mr. Hays:** Are they d.b.s. figures?

**Mr. Vincent:** I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that when the d.b.s. figures are better than those of the Department of Agriculture, the government uses them. The government used to give the d.b.s. figures, but when they found that the figures of the Department of Agriculture were better, they gave those figures. This is what happened last year with regard to the price of milk. I got all the figures on the price of milk from the Department of Agriculture, and the figures are not the same as those of the d.b.s. Therefore it is only a way of saying: "Well, these figures are better and we are going to use them". I shall come back to this in a few minutes, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the price of grain in Montreal. I shall speak about that later.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, this is a petition signed by cheese producers who sell their production on the local market. Mr. Marcel Descôteau retails 893,000 pounds on the local market; Mr. Paul-Émile Dionne, 68,000 pounds; the Société coopérative agricole of St. Germain de Grantham, in the Drummond-Arthabaska riding, 800,000 pounds; the Lemaire cheese factory, of St. Cyrville, 319,251 pounds. You also find the names of Mr. François Richard, of Kingsey Falls; Mr. Gérard Grenier, of Victoriaville; Mr. Henri Provencher, of Princeville; Mr. Félicien Lemaire, of my parish.

[Mr. Vincent.]

Their total production adds up to 3,202,884 pounds of cheese retailed on the local market and not classified.

This means that if the price is raised by 4 cents a pound, the consumer will have to pay an extra \$128,155.36, because of the new support policy of the federal government.

Mr. Chairman, reactions are being felt everywhere. This morning, I received an issue of the newspaper *La Terre de Chez Nous*, the official publication of the U.C.C. The editorial was entitled:

The price support program of dairy products.

And I also read this:

Would thousands of young cattle on highway 17 be more eloquent than our leaders?

Mr. Chairman, the writer of the article does not keep the exclusivity of this headline. As a matter of fact, he says:

Even if I cannot claim I thought first of the suggestion concerning the walking of young cattle on route 17, I submit it anyway.

In regard to the new price support policy, which should be designed to help farmers, instead—as too often stated by the Minister of Agriculture—of saving money for the federal treasury, here is what the editorial of the newspaper in question says, and I quote:

The firm and optimistic tone of the first sentence of the statement made by the Hon. Harry W. Hays, federal Minister of Agriculture, lead us to expect that dairy producers will be better off during the dairy year just begun.

Mr. Chairman, I thought we were the only ones in the house to realize that the Minister of Agriculture always begins his statements by a bombastic tirade which never leads to anything.

And further—

Even if the compound index for goods and services used by eastern producers in the country moved from 232.3 to 242.5 from January 1963 to January 1964.

Mr. Chairman, the minister never mentioned the fact that the prices paid by producers for goods and services increased by some ten points from January 1963 to January 1964.

As for cheese, a few days ago I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether the organizations concerned had been consulted before the announcement of this new policy. I do not question the words of the minister, but I simply read the editorial article, and I quote:

The producers have not been consulted, but their claims are ignored.

And still speaking of cheese, this is what the editorial says: