

## Supply—Agriculture

concerned and so on. This is work on which we intend to continue to put a great deal of emphasis.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Following the very constructive suggestion and observations made by the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska, and noting what the minister has just said, can he say anything about what progress has been made in the determination of the cost of production so far as farmers are concerned? The minister will recall that the interprovincial farm union in particular, in a brief submitted by that organization to the government about a year and a half ago, I think, urged that steps be taken by the administration to determine precisely what is the cost of production of agriculture.

We talk a lot about the difference between what the farmer has to pay for the things he has to buy, including the necessities of life, and the return from the sale of his produce. Has any progress been made in trying to assess the cost of farm production in Canada, generally and specifically?

**Mr. Harkness:** A considerable number of studies, particularly by various provincial bodies in different parts of Canada, have been carried on with respect to specific commodities. These studies have demonstrated the extreme difficulty of getting what might be called really accurate figures as far as the cost of production is concerned. I mentioned last year, and I believe I mentioned again this year on one occasion, that a cost of production study had been carried out with respect to hogs. The survey showed that in one area of Quebec, for example, the cost of production was considerably less than in Alberta, although everybody is aware of the fact that the biggest item in the cost of production of hogs is feed and the cost of feed is less in Alberta than it is in Quebec. This happens to be one outstanding example of the fact that these cost of production studies frequently produce results which very few people are willing to accept.

I think this arises from the fact that the various people carrying on these activities use somewhat different criteria in determining what costs should or should not be included, and there is also the fact that from one farm to another operations vary greatly.

I have received, for example, all kinds of letters from farmers in western Canada saying that the cost of production for their pigs would come to \$25 or \$30 per hundred pounds.

On the other hand I noticed when I was in Winnipeg some two months ago that a man who had won one of the chief prizes for swine at the Brandon winter fair had produced a fairly detailed breakdown of his cost of production, which showed that his cost per hog, not per hundred pounds, was around \$21. This would mean around \$15 per hundred pounds. This is just one example of the extreme variation between farmers and between areas as to what they calculate their cost of production to be, and perhaps what they actually are, because of the differences in efficiency and so on.

**Mr. Boulanger:** I wonder if I heard what the minister said correctly. Did he say that the price index for a number of services used by farmers is higher in western Canada than in Quebec?

**Mr. Harkness:** No. What I said, Mr. Chairman, was that one of these cost of production studies concerning hogs showed that the cost of production was less in Quebec than in Alberta. I think everybody realizes that just could not be so, because the cost of feed is much lower in Alberta than it is in Quebec, and that is the big item in raising hogs.

**Mr. Bourget:** Could the minister give us a list of the universities or other scientific organizations in Canada that are receiving grants from this branch?

**Mr. Harkness:** We make grants to a large number of universities. Does the hon. member want the whole list, which comprises some three of these long pages, or is he interested in a particular university which gets one of these grants?

**Mr. Bourget:** In order to avoid delaying the work of the committee, I wonder if the minister could put the list on *Hansard*. In this way we would have the list without the minister having to take the time to read all the names. I would appreciate it very much if the minister, with unanimous consent, could put the list on *Hansard*.

**Mr. Harkness:** I would be glad to do that with the consent of the committee, Mr. Chairman.

**The Chairman:** Is the committee agreeable to the minister putting this list on *Hansard* at this point in our proceedings?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Editor's note: The list referred to is as follows:]