

*Adjournment Debate*

on to say that the Canadian Dairy Commission has instructions to proceed along certain unnamed guidelines. Are these a secret? If the minister wants constructive suggestions from producers, let him tell this House the guidelines so that producers will have removed from their livelihoods this shroud of secrecy.

● (2220)

I have here in my hand ten speeches by the Minister of Agriculture given between February 13 and March 22 of this year. All of them discuss the need for a dairy policy. Through you, sir, I say to the minister that the time has come for him to talk for the dairy producer, not to him. On March 22, as recorded at page 783 of *Hansard*, the minister said:

It is obvious that we must make our dairy industry capable of supplying every product we need.

I agree. But I submit, sir, that this is impossible unless the government gives long-term policy commitments. On behalf of every dairy producer of Canada, I say to this government and to the minister: the time to give such commitments is now.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I was rather surprised that the hon. member of the opposition should choose to discuss this topic on motion for adjournment. In his remarks, he certainly expressed no doubt that dairy producers wish to be consulted on a matter of such importance to their livelihood as a long term dairy policy.

Not so long ago, the Dairy Farmers of Canada presented a brief to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) which dealt in detail with a long term dairy policy. The minister gave very special attention to that brief and is now endeavouring to formulate a long term dairy policy in the best interest of dairy farmers and consequently in the best interest of all Canadians.

Considerable work has already been done on the formulation of a policy. Still, it is of vital interest that the minister be made aware of the views of dairy farmers before this policy is finalized.

The Canadian Dairy Commission has been dared to consult the industry, and if the brief of the Dairy Farmers of Canada recently received by the minister is any indication, such consultation would certainly be very welcome.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.