

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

Those precautions should be taken immediately. And if the bill does not contain a provision such as I have suggested, then the minister should be prepared to amend it accordingly.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall the resolution carry?

**Mr. Gardiner:** May I suggest that we pass the resolution before six o'clock so that we may then have the bill before us?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Fleming:** May we have the bill now, whether the resolution is passed or not? It would be of very little help to us if it were not circulated before second reading.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I believe about twenty copies have now been made available, and I shall be happy to send one to the hon. member.

**Mr. Fleming:** Are they not available for distribution among all the members?

**Mr. Gardiner:** I would suggest that we give first reading, and then the bill might be distributed as widely as possible before eight o'clock.

**Mr. Drew:** There should be no difficulty in having this bill mimeographed so that copies could be placed on each desk.

**Mr. Gardiner:** If we passed the resolution now, the bill could be made available to hon. members this evening.

**Mr. Drew:** No; there will be plenty of time to deal with the matter this evening. The bill will not be advanced in any way by passing the resolution now. There are some who have speeches to make, or who have indicated their desire to do so.

**Mr. Ross (Souris):** May I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

**Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce):** Just before six o'clock the hon. member for Melfort made some reference to the possibility that action might be taken by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration with respect to immigrants. Without attempting to enter into an explanation about the difficulties at the moment, because after all examination of the immigrant in question has not been completed, I think I should point out one or two facts. First of all I think it was essential that we should locate this immigrant at the earliest possible moment in order

to examine him, and the remarks this afternoon of the hon. member for Lake Centre, who spoke somewhat contemptuously of the efforts that were being made, struck me as being unrealistic. If at this time we had not been taking steps to locate this man I am sure we would have been accused of indifference to what is a very serious problem in the west. I say this without attempting to suggest in any way that possibly the immigrant in question might have caused the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

The facts are these: Willi Bruntjen entered our immigration office in Vancouver last week, and since that time has co-operated fully with us in explaining his whereabouts and everything else about which we have asked him to tell us. He has co-operated in allowing tests to be made of his clothing and personal effects. He was granted a visa in Germany on the 18th of September, finished working on the 13th of October, sailed for Canada on the 19th, arrived on the 29th, went directly to the Regina area, was placed on the farm on the 2nd of November and remained there until the 5th. I understand from what has been said here that the disease was first noticed on the 26th of November.

As I think everyone knows, in the past fifty years we have accepted somewhere between three million and four million immigrants from continental Europe. We have also received a great many visitors from Europe and we have received a great many returning Canadians. Therefore it would seem quite unlikely that this disease might have been transmitted in the manner that has been suggested. Nevertheless under the circumstances we have thought it desirable to take some additional precautions at the moment. As from today no immigrant farmers or farm workers will be recruited or selected abroad if they are from an area where foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent. Second, no immigrant farmers or farm workers already selected, who may now be coming from an infected area abroad, will be placed in employment on farms until they and their effects have been thoroughly disinfected. I know hon. members will realize that this may slow down the movement of farm workers at this time but I am quite sure that the inconvenience will be accepted in view of the fact that we should be particularly careful until all other possible causes have been investigated.

**Mr. Ross (Souris):** I think the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration either misunderstood the hon. member for Lake Centre or was a little unfair to him. I followed the hon. member for Lake Centre—