

EGG EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Question No. 2,696—Mr. Godin:

1. Has Canada exported eggs in 1965 and 1966 and, if so (a) to what countries (b) in what quantities?

2. During the same period, what quantities were imported and from what countries?

Return tabled.

TELEVISION

CREATION BY ESTIMATE OF CORPORATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. It has to do with the supplementary estimate of the Secretary of State providing authorization for the setting up of a corporation and for the minister to make payments to provide broadcasting facilities for educational purposes. In view of the fact that it is rather unusual to create a corporation by a supplementary estimate, and considering the delicate position of education and the fact that the exclusive authority over education rests with the provinces, would not the Acting Prime Minister, in his best parliamentary manner, direct that this question come before the house in the form of a bill so that discussion can take place thereon, rather than circumvent parliament in connection with this information through the instrumentality of a supplementary estimate?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my right hon. friend that there is no intention on the part of the minister or the government of circumventing parliament in any way. The right hon. gentleman is, of course, correct in saying that the normal process is through a bill. However, there are precedents for the use of an estimate. This device has legislative consequence, to implement the purpose the government has in mind.

One of the difficulties in the present situation is that in spite of the progress that has been made legislatively, we have not been able to implement the full legislative program of the government. It is for this reason that it has been found necessary to resort to this particular method, which I repeat is a legislative method, to achieve the purpose the government has in mind. For the moment, I would suggest that this response be left at that. If there is any further consideration that

Inquiries of the Ministry

can be given to this matter, perhaps later I might report.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I ask the minister, in view of the fact he admits this is a short-cut and not the normal process, and since in a matter affecting education arguments such as that are not very effectual—so it will take a long time to pass legislation of this kind, will he not do more than he has done already and, with his wide knowledge of parliament and its rights—enjoin his colleagues to preserve those rights so that a corporation be not set up by subterfuge in this manner?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I can only say that the adjectives my hon. friend has employed are not warranted in the circumstances. The government is not employing any subterfuge. The government is not interested in bypassing parliament.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, it is doing it.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): All my hon. friend has done is to indicate that we propose to take a legislative step in a manner that is not generally adopted, but for which there are precedents. I cannot put my finger on them, but I am sure that during the time the right hon. gentleman was prime minister his government introduced legislation in this form. In any event, my right hon. friend may be assured that the government has given careful consideration to all points of view on this matter. He may be assured that we, no less than he, are anxious to preserve all the privileges and obligations of this free parliament.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): I wonder if I could direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State. Will the government give consideration to introducing this measure by way of the C.B.C., which is set up at the moment to do educational broadcasting? I realize one of the difficulties facing the government is that they are awaiting the report of the committee on educational television, but could they not give this work to the C.B.C. pending a final decision?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): The item in question does not propose to set up a corporation which would deal with programming for educational television, which of course is within the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. This is to be a corporation which will create facilities for the rental of time to provincial agencies of one kind or another. The reason the government decided to introduce it by way of a supplementary item instead of by way of a bill, which would