

might move the adjournment of this discussion.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the business for tomorrow, it would be our intention to continue with this legislation tomorrow until it is completed, and then immediately continue with the three bills dealing with collective bargaining in the civil service; that is, the collective bargaining act, the public service act and the amendments to the Financial Administration Act. Then we would proceed with the resolution preceding the omnibus bills to amend the civil service pension plans.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Revenue whether following that we will be taking the second reading of the Yukon bill?

Mr. Benson: I should like to defer a decision on that matter, Mr. Speaker.

● (10:00 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE—QUEBEC—PROTESTS AGAINST IMPORTS OF EGGS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, on May 20 last, I asked the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Beer) whether the minister had examined the telegram sent by Messrs. Lionel Sorel and Ovila Lebel, president of the Catholic Farmers Union and president of the Quebec Federation of Egg Producers respectively, and in which they showed their concern about "strange importation of eggs into Canada".

I also asked him whether it was his intention to take steps to protect Canadian egg producers against such importation.

It is known, Mr. Speaker, that for several years prices for eggs have been subject to fluctuations that are always detrimental to both small and average producers, and even to big ones at times. Imports are very often the cause of losses suffered by egg producers in this country.

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

In its May 18 edition, *La Terre de Chez Nous* reports that:

Since the beginning of this year until May, egg imports in Canada totaled 23,548 cases of 30 dozen each, as compared to 1,687 cases for the corresponding period last year. These figures include inspected egg imports and may be found in the last weekly report on the poultry product market published in Ottawa.

These figures, Mr. Speaker, are really alarming and the producers are concerned. During a few months, egg prices remained at levels rather interesting for the producers, but the importers noticed it and the results are and will doubtless continue to be harmful to the Canadian producers.

The minister may tell me, as did the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys earlier last week, that these imports are necessary because production does not meet domestic consumption, or that these imports will be exported after processing. But, Mr. Speaker, our poultry producers are precisely able to increase their production considerably, especially in the province of Quebec, to meet the demand of the Canadian market, if they can be assured of being able to sell their produce at a worthwhile price.

It would also be interesting to know the decision of the Minister of Agriculture concerning the resolution passed last year by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which is requesting a royal inquiry into methods of establishing egg prices. We wish to know what the government intends to do for Canadian poultry producers.

[English]

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): With regard to the question raised by the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise), Mr. Speaker, my officials have had an opportunity of looking into this matter and advise the hon. member that, first of all, I did receive a telegram under date of May 10 from Mr. Sorel, President of the Catholic Farmers Union regarding importation of eggs into Canada.

During the past five or six months our egg production has been lower than our requirements, with the result that prices to producers for eggs have been at their highest for the corresponding period for the last seven or eight years. As a result, our egg requirements have been supplemented by an increased quantity of imported eggs. Practically all of these eggs are for the manufacturing trade and have not been in competition with domestic fresh eggs for table use. Despite