

*Government Orders*

• (1050)

I want to say to all hon. members on both sides that I take the exchange which has taken place this morning as a constructive one, and I hope that I will be able to deal with this rule as wisely as you would want a Speaker to.

Obviously, if the rule was changed, there would be other considerations. It might make it easier to rule a debate. That has to be balanced off against what the parliamentary secretary is properly putting up, and that is the process of usual channels, which is a very important aspect of how this place operates.

I will consider what has been said and it may very well be that we could have a further discussion on the matter.

I also want to say something else, and I know that the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond appreciates this. This is a bit unusual. It might be said that this is not a point of order in the usual manner. It may not be. It does not arise out of something that just happened on the floor of the House or out of Question Period, but it does address one of our orders, one of our rules, and the interpretation that ought or ought not to be given to it. I think that carried on briefly and with the civility which has been so manifest here this morning, it is probably a helpful thing.

I am going to hear the hon. member for Algoma. I know we have to deal with the specific matter which has been the subject of some discussion already this week, and I will hear it again.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52****AGRICULTURE**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, the motion or the request under Standing Order 52 was to ask leave to move adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgency, namely that immediate steps must be taken by the government to preserve Canada's supply management marketing board system which is now under serious threat in the GATT negotiations and, further, that the government must deal with the entire crisis facing the agrifood industry and the family farm in Canada.

It would be hard to exaggerate the fear, the concern and the anguish facing some 35,000 or 45,000 dairy and poultry farmers across the country today. They meet in rallies. They write letters to members of Parliament.

They demand a commitment from the government that the government will act in every possible way. The personal level of the problem is: Will these people survive under the proposals that have been made? They think not.

That is the human level, the important level, but in macroeconomics it is important too. It is a \$10 billion group of producers. It is a secure domestic supply for those commodities which are marketed under supply management.

It is 100,000 jobs, but beyond that it is just the viability and the survivability of literally thousands of rural communities across Canada.

I ask leave of the House for an adjournment debate on this urgent matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** As I have said, the matter has been before the House for several days. I think I made it very clear yesterday, in rejecting the hon. member's application, that that did not foreclose other applications.

As I mentioned yesterday, I was listening very carefully to the exchange in Question Period, both the questions and the answers. I shall do the same today and I shall reserve on this application until after Question Period.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN****MEASURE TO AMEND**

The House resumed from Tuesday, February 4, consideration of the motion of the Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-32, an act to amend the Canada Assistance Plan, be read the third time and passed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I believe the hon. member for Northumberland had the floor. She has two minutes remaining in debate.

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I was commenting on the disastrous impact of the capping of the Canada Assistance Plan in my riding of Northumberland.

The fact is that since 1990 costs for providing social assistance have risen almost three times. At the moment our county has a \$400,000 deficit which will have to be