

That this House instruct the government to issue directives to all departments requiring that they reduce their budgets for the next fiscal year by 10 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The motion cannot be put.

* * *

VETERANS LAND ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR EXPIRY TO MARCH
31, 1975

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-17, to amend the Veterans Land Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the second time?

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been discussions through the usual channels and an agreement has been reached which, as I understand it, is that we will take second reading of this bill as the first item under orders of the day. Speeches will be limited to one speaker for each party, and the bill will then be sent to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs which would meet this evening to give consideration to the bill.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, we agree to that disposal.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Marshall: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, we agree to the time for second reading, but beyond that we will decide.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think it is a fact that the discussions that took place related only to the time of second reading and to one speaker per party at that stage. As to anything else, such as the possibility of changing the committee situation, this was to be left for later discussion. So at this point, without binding the future, I think all that the four parties have agreed to is that we take second reading today, and that the debate on second reading be limited to one speaker per party.

● (1500)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the comment by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. It is the understanding of the Chair that the question on second reading of this bill will be put this afternoon at the time of calling of orders of the day and that there will be an order of the House limiting the contributions of hon.

Oral Questions

members to one speaker from each party. Is that agreed and so ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—POSSIBLE RELEASE OF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION INTO CHARGES BY FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD ABOUT EGG MARKETING

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture who has just stepped out behind the curtains. Perhaps in his absence I could direct it—

An hon. Member: He is coming back now.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, perhaps by the time I put my question the minister will be in his seat. I should like to ask whether he is now in a position to release the report on the investigation into charges raised by the Food Prices Review Board about egg marketing in Canada which were released on January 10? My question is prompted by the request from the Canadian egg producers for import controls on United States eggs.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the report has not been submitted to me yet so I am in no position to make it public.

EGGS—REQUEST FOR CONTROLS ON IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the request by certain Canadian egg producers for import controls on U.S. eggs coming into Canada, and in view of the specific recommendation of the Food Prices Review Board which called for an immediate reduction in the price of eggs to make it more realistic in relation to the cost of production, and also called for a system of price stabilization, I should like to ask the minister, after he has had time to consult with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, whether he is now in a position to enlighten the House and the country, especially having regard to the chaos that exists in the egg industry and the high prices to consumers in this country?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that there has been a decrease in the price of eggs since the Food Prices Review Board report was submitted. I am sure he could get a copy of the brief submitted to me the other day by CEMA, which shows that they are producing eggs at a loss in Canada and are therefore asking for some kind of a program that will stabilize the industry and take the chaos out of it which I am sure the hon. member recognizes is there at the present time.