

*Adjournment Debate*

There being no further members rising to debate and the motion not being designated as a votable item, the time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired and the order is dropped from the Order Paper pursuant to Standing Order 96(1).

**Mr. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order. I wish to comment with respect to the Speaker's last words. I am not debating the Chair and I want that clearly understood. I want to put on the record that I stood in my place and I wished to say a few words about this business before it expired. The Speaker was busy doing other things but I wanted to participate—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** If I may remind the member, when the member for Kamloops rose that meant debate had closed.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

## SUSPENSION OF SITTING

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** We will suspend the sitting until 6.30 p.m.

(The sitting of the House was suspended at 6.24 p.m.)

## SITTING RESUMED

(The House resumed at 6.28 p.m.)

**ADJOURNMENT PROCEEDINGS***[Translation]*

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères, BQ):** Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, I questioned the Minister for International Trade about the trade dispute between the U.S. and Canada over goods subject to quotas, such as poultry, eggs and dairy. At the time, the trade minister was unable to give farm producers the assurance that Canada's position will prevail over that of the U.S. Canada's position, according to which the GATT Accord takes precedence over NAFTA regarding agricultural commodities subject to quotas is steadfast and flawless.

Since the Americans never challenged the tariff structure submitted by Canada during the Uruguay Round, particularly with respect to yogurt and ice cream, it would be very difficult for them to come and ask Canada for tariff concessions for these commodities now.

That being said, the restructuring necessitated by the shift from a quota system to a tariff system will particularly affect dairy producers, 50 per cent of which are found in Quebec.

Throughout this transition period, dairy producers will have to contend with the federal government's decommitment in several areas. Of course, this decommitment will have a major impact on them, as it will affect their competitiveness in the short, medium and long term.

First, in the short term, the federal government's decision to reduce by 30 per cent, over the next two years, its subsidies to industrial milk producers will result in significant losses for these producers.

Indeed, the Quebec federation of dairy producers estimates that these cuts will result in a 15 per cent loss of revenue for industrial milk producers. This translates into a loss of \$3,775 for a medium-sized dairy farm producing 25,000 hectolitres of milk.

These losses, which will result in a shortfall of close to \$34 million for the Quebec industry, will also be felt when, as is the case now, there is a need to invest in modern infrastructures to compete with American producers.

Incidentally, dairy producers, unlike western farmers, will not benefit from any compensatory measure following this reduced federal assistance. Again, this shows the double standard applied by the federal government.

The withdrawal of federal support to the dairy industry will also have an impact in the middle and in the long term, since several so-called green programs, under the GATT, will be eliminated. These programs deal with genetic evaluation, milk recording, dairy animal improvement, and research.

Reducing or eliminating funding for these various programs will have very serious repercussions, because these moves not only threaten the programs that already exist, but they also affect Quebec's and Canada's ability to remain leading innovators in the dairy industry on the world scene.

While we are cutting that which would allow us to stay on the cutting edge in this sector at the very centre of our economy, the Americans are planning to invest more than \$600 million over the next five years in so-called green farming programs under the terms of the Uruguay Round agreements.

What logic did the federal government use when it decided to cut research and development programs in the dairy sector, although studies show that for each dollar invested in genetic improvement or in quality control in the dairy sector, Quebec and Canada taxpayers reap seven dollars in benefits?

No, dairy producers vigorously oppose any funding cuts to so-called green programs because the industry regards them as a priority. Obviously, there is no way that I or the Bloc Québécois can support such acts on the part of the government and that is