

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. It is my duty at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Immigration—Effect of law on work opportunities for Canadian performers; the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Public Service—Request that present legislation affecting relationship with government be reviewed by committee.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions (papers).

● (5:00 p.m.)

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

#### REPORT ON UNITED STATES INTERNAL FOOD-AID PROGRAM AND ITS APPLICATION TO CANADA

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway)** moved:

That an order of the House do issue for a copy of the report undertaken in the Department of Agriculture on the United States internal food aid program and its application to Canada.

She said: Mr. Speaker, in November last I asked that we should be allowed to see a copy of the report undertaken by the Canadian Department of Agriculture concerning the United States internal food aid program and its application to Canada. My request was refused on the usual grounds that this was a document intended for internal departmental use and thus it was not available to members of the House. As you know, Mr. Speaker, a number of us do not accept these as valid grounds for such refusal. When we know that reports have been prepared by the government at a cost to the taxpayers, we feel such documents ought to be made available to members of the House, particularly when they are exceedingly useful documents which could give greater reality to some of the programs about which we are concerned.

At this time I feel that the matter of an internal food aid program is important. The other day, when the latest consumer price index came out, I asked whether the government intended to do something to help low-income people with respect to their nutritional needs, particularly in view of the way the cost of living was increasing. I pointed out that the increase between April and May had been the greatest for the comparable two months in the preceding six years. I said the most difficult fact to accept was that according to the index, the cost of food had gone up tremendously, particularly that of fresh fruits and vegetables which increasingly are being recognized as essential elements of good nutrition. I mention these

#### Canada-U.S. Food-Aid Program

matters only to give a good, solid reason for my request for this report, because I feel that an internal food aid program could have definite application to Canada.

For some years now medical reports have indicated that the Canadian people are not really as well fed as we have liked to think. We know that this is a country in which food has been abundant, where we have a good deal of knowledge about preparing food, to say nothing about the interest in cooking that has been generated by Canadian immigrants who have come from all over the world. Their ideas on food preparation have added enormously to our Canadian cuisine. However, we are beginning to realize that the nutrition of many people in Canada falls far below what it should be.

As a result of technology and our changed ways of living, people have developed many poor nutritional habits. Here I am talking about people who buy pre-packaged, pre-prepared foods which are easily consumed without going through the ritual of a formal meal—foods such as potato chips, pop, Coke, hamburgs and that sort of thing. Among people generally there is a lack of information on the nutritional qualities of food. Complicating all this have been the circumstances of low-income groups, of people who have not been able to afford the quality foods that give good nutrition. I know these people can buy beans, bread and cabbage—incidentally, cabbage is nutritious—but for their staples they buy the more stodgy foods, those which their incomes dictate they must buy. The proof of this is the number of cases of rickets and scurvy found among children, particularly those in low-income groups although it is not limited to those groups.

Recently a whole rash of weird diets has spread across the country, usually taken up by women wanting to cut down on weight and who have been led to believe that such diets would do the trick in a very short time. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) is not in the chamber because I am glad to say that after a long, hard battle his department is taking action under the Combines Investigation Act against the "Canadian blitz diet" program, a patently deceptive and phony program which has deceived a number of Canadians.

This is one of the reasons why the Canadian national nutrition survey is being undertaken, a two-year program involving about 21,000 people, to find out all about their nutrition habits. As a result, in 1972 we will know what laws we need to change, what laws we need to enact and what educational programs we must launch to improve Canadian nutrition. We will probably have to pass tough laws dealing with food additives, changes in dietetic courses, changes in our nutritional standards and, above all, we will have to go much more deeply into the matter of income levels particularly among poverty groups. Let nobody forget that one of the main causes of poor nutrition in Canada is the fact that one-fifth of our population lives below the poverty line. For all these reasons I wanted access to this report on the U.S. internal food aid program.