

totalled \$9 billion; by 1971 they had increased to \$24 billion. Farmers spent, on goods and services, \$1.5 billion in 1951; by 1971 the amount so spent had increased to \$3.7 billion. About one-third of our labour force is involved with food and agricultural production. Twenty per cent of the gross value of our manufacturing industry is based on agriculture. Farmers, in 1970, spent \$131 million on fertilizer; in 1971 they spent \$605 million on farm machinery and another \$282 million on oil, gasoline and lubricants, making the agricultural industry one of the biggest consumers of gas and oil products in Canada today. Another \$644 million was spent on livestock feeds, \$325 million on interest payments and \$338 million for farm help. Canadian farmers are major contributors in the establishment of export credit. The figures for 1971 show record-breaking exports: we exported more than \$2 billion worth of agricultural products. By 1974 that figure had doubled to nearly \$4 billion.

In summary, let me say this: if governments ignore or pay little attention to the importance of the farm economy, we must make it clear to them in no uncertain terms that they are failing to deal fairly with a major group in the Canadian economy. I have the feeling, Mr. Speaker, that Bill C-50 and in fact all agricultural bills only interest the 6 per cent or 7 per cent of our population engaged in food production; that is to say, agriculture bills do not interest most people but interest only the dwindling number of our society who provide the food for our entire nation and, indeed, for people beyond our borders. The real truth of the matter is that good agricultural legislation which benefits producers, benefits the entire economy and provides significant advantages to all consumers.

I am aware that many farm associations are anxious to make presentations, to make their views known on this bill and to provide some input at the committee stage. These include the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union, to name but two. Such opportunity must be provided.

Marketing boards and farm marketing commissions have functioned reasonably well in recent years and have greatly assisted producers to obtain improved markets, greater stability and fairer prices. These marketing boards and commissions have provided secure supplies of high quality products to consumers at very reasonable prices. The situation is that marketing boards, regardless of their usefulness and contribution, cannot supply adequate stability on their own. This bill, even though an improvement over its predecessor, falls far short of providing much in the way of either short or long-term stability. In closing, I am hopeful that at the committee stage recommended changes and amendments will be acceptable to the minister, to his staff and to the government.

Adjournment Motion

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY GREEN PAPER ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. T. Lefebvre (Pontiac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the unanimous consent of the House to revert to motions so that I can announce the establishment of a special joint committee of the House for the consideration of the Green Paper on Immigration Policy.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*English*]

Mr. Lefebvre: Mr. Speaker, I therefore move:

That the members of the House of Commons on the Special Joint Committee on the Green Paper on Immigration Policy be Mr. Alexander, Mr. Beaudoin, Miss Bégin, Mr. Brewin, Mr. Daudlin, Mr. Epp, Mr. Friesen, Mr. Guay (St. Boniface), Mr. La Salle, Mr. Lee, Mr. MacDonald (Egmont), Miss Nicholson, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Prud'homme and Mr. Rompkey; and

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof.

Motion agreed to.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty, 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 Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard)—Health—Alleged failure of products of Connaught Laboratories to meet standards—Government action; the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—National Defence—Overhaul of Boeing 707s by Transair—Suggested consideration of employees of Canadian aviation and electronics; the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Communications—Abandoned Pine Tree radar base—Government action to prevent damage—Inquiry as to possible future use.

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, public bills, private bills and notices of motions.