

There are many signatures including those of many representatives of the Chinese community of Strathcona. I hope that we will get on with the review of this legislation very quickly.

#### ADDITION OF EGGS TO IMPORT CONTROL LIST

**Mr. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition from some residents of Canada and southwestern Ontario in particular representing the hatching egg producers from across Canada who have organized themselves into a Canadian Hatching Egg Producers Marketing Agency under the provisions of the National Farm Products Marketing Agency Act in a sincere attempt to tailor their production to meet the demand of the Canadian market.

However, their efforts will be of no avail unless chicken hatching eggs are added to the import control list. Therefore these petitioners call upon Parliament and the Government to honour this commitment to the Canadian producers and announce the addition of the product to the import control list so as to provide stability for these farmers whose industry will be destroyed if no action is not forthcoming.

Please make this a merry Christmas for this sector of Canadian agriculture.

[Translation]

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board) and Acting President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be held over.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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#### POINT OF ORDER

##### APPLICATION OF STANDING ORDERS 33(2) AND 57

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, our Standing Orders provide that when a Minister rises and makes a statement under routine Proceedings—and we have had such a statement today—an MP from the official opposition, or from each of the opposition parties, may take roughly the same amount of time to respond.

#### Petitions

Standing Order 33(2) stipulates, and I quote:

A period of time corresponding to the time taken for the proceedings pursuant to paragraph (1) of this section shall be added to the time provided for government business as follows:

On Fridays, the time is added to the end of the day, and so today if we are going to respect Standing Order 33(2) we should add on the time that has been used for the Minister's statement and the response from the opposition parties.

I noticed that you did not indicate to the House that there was a provision to this effect. Normally you say so just before the call for Routine Proceedings or Orders of the Day.

I wonder, in the opinion of this House, or of the Chair, whether we are to take it that Standing Order 57, which stipulates that questions must be decided without delay, closure having been invoked, overrides Standing Order 33(2).

I would ask the Chair to direct us on this matter, so that it will be clear that when I and my caucus a few minutes ago asked the House to restrict the time allotted to each member, which is 20 minutes per speech, so that more Members would have a chance to speak, it doesn't mean we have to add on extra time tomorrow morning at one a.m. because of a Standing Order that is interpreted perhaps somewhat differently from the way I see it.

I would ask the Chair to tell us which Standing Order, 57 or 33(2), takes precedence here.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member, with his usual intelligence, knows the Standing Orders, and I congratulate him. I believe his question is a valid one. From the government's point of view there is no problem regarding the interpretation of Standing Order 57, which in my opinion is the one that should apply.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier and the Hon. Member for Calgary West for their remarks.

There is indeed a conflict between Standing Orders 33 and 57. I shall take the following position: in my opinion, Standing Order 57, because this is an exceptional case, ought to take precedence over Standing Order 33. However, I think it might perhaps be a good idea if the Committee on Procedure were to consider the question, and once they have reported a conclusion one way or the other I am sure the House will act on it.

I thank the two Members for their comments.