

*Adjournment Debate*

Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie), for his comments. I think what the Hon. Member was indicating is that there is work out there for the potential breadwinners of families which was not there before. The Hon. Member's comments link very closely to my remarks, that we must get the breadwinner working and bringing income in. If that income is not adequate, the Government and the taxpayers can help. If we can keep him or her working, we have a good thing going. I believe the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Assiniboine was showing that there is potential for someone to go out and get a job as the breadwinner of the family.

● (1800)

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

#### AGRICULTURE—CREATION OF NATIONAL MARKETING BOARD FOR INCUBATED EGGS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House I asked the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) for details on the official recognition of a national marketing board for incubated eggs.

I would like to bring forth additional information on that issue of major importance to Canadians in general and to people in my constituency in particular. I would like to remind the Minister how important it is that a decision be made soon by Cabinet, because what is involved is a very important proclamation, in view of the fact that the market is gradually desintegrating under the feet of our incubated egg producers. It must also be emphasized, Mr. Speaker, that producers of incubated eggs employ some 2,000 people here in Canada, either directly or indirectly.

This industry has a turnover of well over \$100 million and, in addition, it provides the chick producers of Quebec with the eggs they require for their final production.

I feel I should also include details as to the status of that industry in Quebec, where some 30 per cent of all incubated eggs are produced.

Quebec producers get 80 per cent of their supplies from eggs incubated in Quebec. The industry is very seriously threatened by American competition, and I must stress that between 1983 and 1985 there have been alarming increases in the levels of American egg and chick imports. They have increased by 59 and 829 per cent respectively, going from 39.6 to 63.3 million eggs and from 2.1 to 19.8 million chicks. Those data, illustrating as they do the trend in our Canadian incubated egg production, is a very bad omen indeed, and it is urgent that we take steps to stop that trend. Our producers will find it increasingly hard to survive and hold their own on a competitive market where inequality and inadequate organization

would prove very costly to Canadian producers. Canadian producers do not expect preferential treatment from the Government, they are simply asking for a specific measure which is consistent with the existing law, namely that their marketing board be duly acknowledged. They do not advocate the expenditure of public funds. The producers are seeking a formal structure so that they will be able to exercise self-discipline and avail themselves of existing provisions in Canadian law. They did not spare any effort and were in regular contact with the office of the Minister of Agriculture who, last August 13, brought the issue of incubated eggs to the attention of his Cabinet colleagues. Their decision was to refer the matter to the trade relations departmental sub-committee for an assessment of the impact which the creation of a new board might have on the Canada-U.S. bilateral discussions on freer trade. The producers are worried about possible delays and they would like the Government and the Department of Agriculture to set a deadline in the near future just so they can be sure their marketing board will become operative. It is in that sense that I urge the Minister of Agriculture to intervene and establish the marketing board. I am asking this because it is important to Canadian producers, including those in Quebec, Mr. Speaker, first because it means a lot to most incubated egg producers in my riding, and a large number of industries are related to chicken farming, egg production, and so on. I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will be able to provide an appropriate answer and I know that he will be well represented in this House by his new Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne), whom I wish to congratulate on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, which appointment he certainly owes to his active interest in the fields of agriculture and wheat transport in relation with the Crow rate. Today, the Hon. Member for Champlain has an opportunity to assert officially his desire to help Quebec producers.

**Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, first, I want to say that it is a pleasure to see our Quebec colleagues, such as the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine), take an active interest in agriculture, particularly as concerns an issue which has been the subject of special attention these last few months and weeks.

First, I would like to remind the Hon. Member that the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act allows for the establishment of an agency when there is a certainty that the majority of producers of a farm product or of each farm product in Canada are in favour of creating such an agency.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the Canadian Association of Egg Producers has worked to establish the provincial organizations required to create a national supply management agency.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to impress upon the Hon. Member for Lévis is that in 1976, and to quote from the