

the debate on the bill until it is completed, or does he plan any interruption for any purpose?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, we hope to continue with it until it is completed. We should only consider interrupting the debate on that bill if the House were to become so weary of it as to make no progress.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Then would the minister interrupt it for Easter?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I gather that the agreement of the House Leaders is that if a vote should be required in connection with the second reading of Bill C-207 tomorrow, it will be deferred until Monday. Is there unanimous agreement?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, we would call the vote just as Orders of the Day are called, after oral questions, if that is agreeable.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### TRADE—STEPS TO LIMIT IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND BEEF

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I am bringing before the House tonight the matter of imports of beef from New Zealand and Australia because I have not been able to obtain from the government and the minister responsible what I consider a satisfactory answer about where we are going in regard to beef imports. The matter was first brought to the attention of the House when the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) early in 1969 returned from a tour of Asia and announced that we could expect increased imports of beef from New Zealand. He said that these imports were mainly derived from the slaughter of canner and cutter cows and that we did not have enough of such cows. By June, 1970, it was obvious that these imports were creating a real problem in Canada. So much beef was being brought into Canada and re-exported to the United States that the United States complained.

On June 25 I urged the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson), as recorded in *Hansard*, to report to the House before the recess what action the government would take and what policy it would follow on this matter. No satisfactory answer was received. On December 1, 1970, I again asked if steps would be taken to limit the amount of beef imported into Canada from Australia and New Zealand to levels that would not pose a threat to our own

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market. The minister replied, as recorded at page 1628 of *Hansard*, as follows:

This concerns a matter we negotiated with Australia and New Zealand during midsummer when it presented a serious problem. We hope that the kind of negotiations which led to a solution of the difficulty then will be conducted in the future.

In December or January I again asked the question and received no satisfactory answer. In either June or July of last year the United States put a complete ban on the re-export of these products coming into Canada from New Zealand; they were blocked off. The full flow of products then on the high seas was unloaded in Canada. The "Canadian Cattleman", a journal issued by the cattleman's association, expressed very grave concern. It pointed out that we were reaching the point where 10 per cent of the beef we consumed was imported from Australia and New Zealand. In the period January to September, 1970, Canada imported 62 million pounds of beef from New Zealand and 43 million pounds from Australia. This is the nature of the problem.

At a recent meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, we discussed the new provisions in trade with regard to these imports. When I asked the witnesses who appeared before the committee whether we could negotiate quotas with New Zealand under the agreement, the answer was yes. To my knowledge, no attempt has been made to take this kind of action. Our market is wide open. We have quotas on butter because it is necessary to protect the dairy industry. However, our beef markets are open to everyone. We tell other countries to come and help themselves.

The North Battleford *News Optimist*, which is published in the centre of the cattle-raising area in Saskatchewan, states that United States officials have stated this embargo on imports of New Zealand beef to the United States will continue throughout the current year. Are we to assume that our market will be left wide open? The New Zealanders are exporting their problems with regard to dairy products and beef to this country. The minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board stated that Canadian farmers would put an additional three million acres into forage for beef production. When speaking to the Canadian Confederation of Agriculture on January 27, the Minister of Agriculture stated as follows:

Our livestock industry is responding to new challenges. The beef industry has invested millions in new feedlots from coast to coast, we are increasing our national herd, we are adopting new processing and merchandising techniques—

Hon. members opposite are not rising to meet the challenge. The minister is responsible.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) has raised a problem which existed in Canada last summer. It is quite true that at that time large quantities of Australian and New Zealand beef were being imported into Canada and transhipped to the United States. The situa-