

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

aspect of communications, which has deep underlying sociological implications. I trust that the minister in his reply will indicate a reversal of the decision that was made to discontinue this service. I hope we shall have the assurance that the excellent work of the NFB will carry on in its traditional style.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may rest assured that the NFB's distribution operations will remain efficient. Efforts have to be made to rationalize the distribution operations, and those efforts alone warrant that decision.

At the present time, the NFB has two offices in Manitoba to serve about one million people, of whom 50 per cent are in the city of Winnipeg.

Two officials are on duty at the Winnipeg office (one secretary and one clerk) while the Brandon office has one official in charge of the films and one part-time secretary. The Brandon office serves the southwestern and northern parts of Manitoba. That office gives a small free distribution service to the people in Brandon and the vicinity. It was realized, however, that there is not enough demand in Brandon to maintain a distribution service in that area.

However, films will still be available, through the film federations, the National Film Board office in Winnipeg, and film libraries of the National Film Board which will continue to operate in the region.

It has therefore been recommended that the Brandon office be closed on June 30, 1970. The local representative, Mr. Gerry McLeod, will be transferred to the Winnipeg office, where he will continue to serve the same region, and he will require for their work the services of a secretary and a clerk in Winnipeg.

The closing of the office, on June 30, should in no way affect services (programming, film studio, training, etc.) offered by National Film Board offices, in view of the fact that Mr. McLeod, who has been working in Brandon, will continue serving the same region from Winnipeg.

AGRICULTURE—DAIRY INDUSTRY—CHANGES
IN CONSTITUTION TO CONTROL PRODUCTION

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Last June 2, Mr. Speaker, I asked to the Minister

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) the following question:

Does the minister deem advisable to have the constitution amended so that, at last, the federal government might have a better control over dairy production?

The minister was embarrassed, Mr. Speaker, but your intervention saved him. Indeed, you suggested that this interesting question might be put on the order paper. However, since I wanted a full answer to a relevant query, I was forced to bring it up on the adjournment motion.

I understand the minister, who is trying to justify the inadmissible and disastrous dairy policy of the government. He brought up the same old constitutional argument. In a recent speech at Richmond in the Eastern Townships, the minister stated:

The federal government is not empowered by the British North America Act to set production quotas for each farmer.

It is always the same old excuse. Such buck-passing between Quebec and Ottawa is getting on the nerves of all Quebecers, including the dairy producers, who are pushed around with impunity.

I ask the minister to be honest. His failure to find a solution to this problem means that the fate of the farm industry in Quebec does not worry him very much. The minister is stuck. The Canadian Dairy Commission has been set on a course that is now destroying and in the future will destroy to a greater extent the Quebec producers. The Commission wants to make dairy products scarce in the hope of solving the problem. This is inhuman, taking into account the needs of the people; they would use more dairy products if, at last, it was decided to increase their purchasing power; besides hundred of thousands of human beings die of starvation each day throughout the world. But that is another problem. Therefore, I should come back to the main point of my question: how the minister expects to settle the quota problem, if he cannot amend the constitution.

In view of the failure of the federal policy on industrial milk, does he not believe that the government should yield all jurisdiction in that area and leave to provincial governments the control of the entire dairy industry? Besides, it has been a basic mistake to divide milk production into these two sectors: fluid milk and industrial milk. Quality requirements are about the same today, more especially as cows do not care in the least what is the final destination of their milk.