

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, we had hoped that all hon. gentlemen opposite would have had an opportunity by now to express their views fully and completely in respect of clause 2 of the bill. But in view of the fact that they apparently have not, we will carry on this debate tomorrow. I would hope, however, that very early in the day we could get on to another clause. Perhaps we could agree to stand clause 2 so that we could give adequate consideration to all the clauses in the bill.

Mr. Churchill: Thank you very much. I have another speech ready for tomorrow.

● (10:00 p.m.)

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

**AGRICULTURE—INQUIRY AS TO BASIS FOR
FLUID MILK SUBSIDY**

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I think it is timely that I should have listed for debate this evening after the ten o'clock adjournment the subject matter of the government's dairy policy. It is timely because, after all, it was this afternoon that one hon. member on this side of the house attempted to adjourn the house under standing order 26 in order to debate the urgency of the situation regarding the inadequacy of the government's present dairy policy. Of course it is not my intention at this time to go into any details regarding the many ways in which the present dairy policy is inadequate. Other hon. members in the course of the past week have advanced many reasons why the present policy falls short. However, it is necessary to point out with emphasis once again that the problem in the dairy industry has been growing in a very dramatic and alarming way in the past few months.

It is a long standing problem which this industry has faced, along with other sectors of agriculture, but it has been increasing to an alarming degree. Everything the government has said through its minister, and through other speakers today, has not offered a solution to the problem. On the one hand we have a minister who takes an attitude of almost complete indifference to a problem that is facing the nation, namely one of continuing low income among our food producers, a minister who is showing indolence and nonchalance, and on the other hand we have

[Mr. Churchill.]

a minister who is trying to push through the house legislation unifying our armed forces, a matter which is of no urgency at all. The government is spending days and weeks ramming through legislation of no urgency, and yet the Minister of Agriculture, despite repeated pleas, refuses to give any indication that he will reconsider a dairy policy which is damned and condemned by all spokesmen of the dairy industry in this country.

I cannot understand the government's order of priorities and its poor sense of proportion with regard to problems that face our country. No doubt tomorrow the Minister of National Defence will again insist on the passage of this legislation, while the Minister of Agriculture might very well not be around to answer some of the pointed questions which will be put to him by members on this side.

The question I asked last Tuesday, as recorded at page 14765 of *Hansard*, dealt specifically with the jurisdiction and responsibility for price support on fluid milk. I must admit that the minister has stated repeatedly that under the new policy there will be a more clear division of responsibility with regard to the dairy policy, that the federal government is subsidizing manufacturing milk to a greater degree, which is a fact that no one disputes, and that therefore the fluid milk price levels will become the responsibility of the provinces. However, there is a flaw in the reasoning there because fluid milk in excess of the quota becomes surplus fluid, and in effect manufacturing milk, and the federal government therefore should not try to absolve itself of its responsibility in that field.

As I said on the day when the minister made his statement a few weeks ago, I think the federal government has made a great mistake in transferring to the provinces the control of price levels for fluid milk.

Other members have put this compelling argument to the Minister of Agriculture, and it is a very reasonable one. Since surplus fluid milk goes into manufacture, on what basis can the federal government withdraw its support? Under this new policy support has been withdrawn and this will mean that the shippers of fluid milk will find themselves in a much more difficult position financially. Statistical data put out by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and that compiled by the dairy, organizations themselves, has shown that in the last few years, despite the existence of a small measure of federal support for surplus fluid milk, there was a deterioration in the income position of fluid milk shippers.