

Inquiries of the Ministry

eration under the terms of Standing Order 26. As hon. members will recognize, we are involved currently, even this afternoon, in a debate which comes very close to that proposed by the hon. member for Broadview. Indeed, the amendment proposed for the study and consideration of the House by the hon. member for Edmonton West substantially covers the field suggested in the proposed motion now before me. In the circumstances I would not think it would be in order for the Chair to put the motion.

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GRAIN**WITHHOLDING BY GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER
TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT—FARMER'S
ECONOMIC PLIGHT**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, this is a proposed motion to adjourn the House. Pursuant to Standing Order 26 I ask leave to adjourn the House to discuss a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration. The matter arises from the serious shortage of cash income of Canadian farmers, making it almost impossible for them to continue farming operations and make a living. The situation has been aggravated by a decrease in the price per bushel of wheat and the fact that the Canadian Wheat Board has not received certain payments from the consolidated revenue fund of Canada for the storage of grain for the crop years 1970-71 and 1971-72 to date. I therefore ask for the adjournment of the House and move:

That the House adjourn to discuss the serious cost squeeze and present economic plight of the farmer which has been further aggravated and their income seriously reduced by the failure of the Canadian Wheat Board to receive moneys for storage of grain for the crop years 1970-71 and 1971-72 to date from the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Regina East has submitted for the consideration of the Chair a motion dealing with the same matter and essentially in the same terms. Perhaps it would be advisable to allow the hon. member to put his motion also and then a ruling can be made on both motions at the same time.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the urgent need for the government to make the payments to the Canadian Wheat Board specified in the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act of 1956 so that an immediate improvement can be made in the economic position of western farmers.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North and the hon. member for Regina East have both filed the notice required by Standing Order 26. Hon. members will not mind my reminding them again, as I have done on a number of occasions, that Standing Order 26 specifically states that the statement of the matter sought to be debated under the Standing Order should not be accompanied by argument. The thought behind the new rule is that, notice having been given to the Chair, it will be the Speak-

er's responsibility to consider all aspects of the matter and to give a ruling without presentation of argument either in support of or in opposition to the motion.

This having been said, it is obvious that the general matter referred to in the motions before us is of considerable importance and interest. This is evidenced by the many references made to it by a number of hon. members during the last few days. Indeed, a few motions have already been proposed under Standing Order 26 which were disallowed by the Chair. My main objection to the previous motions was that they were essentially censure motions or non-confidence motions which are not contemplated by the Standing Order. I took the opportunity yesterday to make this suggestion to the hon. member for Calgary North.

The motion proposed today refers, on the other hand, to the economic situation of western farmers as it relates to the payment or non-payment of certain sums to the Canadian Wheat Board. The Chair would find it difficult to question in any way the submissions contained in the statements in support of the motions. On the strength of these statements and in view of the suggestions made in the course of my ruling of yesterday, I would be inclined to favour the motions and to agree that this is the kind of situation contemplated by Standing Order 26.

I do not overlook the aspect of opportunity for debate at an early date. It may well be that this is the kind of situation which ought to have been debated on a supply motion. However, I have no indication as to when this opportunity might come. In view of these circumstances, having reflected very seriously on the matter and having given, as I say, very serious and the most sympathetic thought to the different aspects of this matter, I have reached the conclusion that hon. members would want to have an opportunity to consider this matter for a few hours. Therefore I suggest, if hon. members agree, that there be a debate on this subject later this evening.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—SUGGESTED WINTER
WORKS PROGRAM AND TAX CUTS—GOVERNMENT
PROJECTIONS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of the disturbing increase in the seasonally adjusted figures for unemployment released this morning and the ominous outlook that this provides for the coming winter. Is the Prime Minister prepared to assure the House that, in view of these figures and the outlook, he is prepared to take immediate steps to initiate a new works program for this winter, with the prospect of providing some employment through that program?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the figures are so significantly impressive that the government as well as the opposition is concerned about the publication of those figures.