

Mr. Stanfield: Open as a sieve.

Mr. Wagner: An open penitentiary.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF—LARGE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN PRICE PAID BY CONSUMER AND RECEIVED BY PRODUCER—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I rise to propose a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of pressing and urgent necessity. This matter concerns the unprecedented spread between the low price paid to the beef producer and the high price paid by the consumer. No inquiry to date, including that of the Food Prices Review Board, has been able to explain this spread, although it is of vital importance to the underpaid producer and the hard pressed consumer in these days of escalating food prices.

Mr. Speaker, I have documentary evidence that leads me to believe that this low producer return and high consumer price problem has been caused by malfunction of the government-administered grading system. I plead with members to support my motion asking that the government inquire into this matter of such great concern to all hon. members and to the public. I shall be glad to appear before any inquiry with my documentary evidence.

● (1420)

With consent, Mr. Speaker, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Hamilton):

That the government immediately inquire into this serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have considerable reservation whether this matter, although important, contains any ingredient of immediacy or pressing urgency. In this case, because the full details of the hon. member's presentation may leave some question as to whether the necessary degree of immediacy or urgency is present, I will inquire of the House whether there is unanimous consent. The hon. member's motion, presented pursuant to the terms of Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House if it is to be debated. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There not being unanimous agreement, the motion cannot be put at this time.

Attendance of Members HOUSE OF COMMONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDERS—PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WINNIPEG

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, rather than relying on Standing Order 43, I rise to move a motion under Standing Order 5, which reads:

Every member is bound to attend the service of the House, unless leave of absence has been given him by the House.

Sir, it has been announced that at the invitation of Mayor Juba of the city of Winnipeg, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is to attend a centennial dinner in my city this Thursday, December 5. Because I am one of the Winnipeg members, and because all of us feel that he should be there, I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom):

That the Prime Minister be granted leave of absence from the House of Commons on Thursday, December 5, 1974, under the provisions of Standing Order 5, for the purpose of attending a centennial dinner being held in the city of Winnipeg, provided that at that dinner he announce the early commencement of work on the new air base facility promised to Winnipeg during the recent election campaign.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Notwithstanding the clear provisions of the rule which may or may not affect the right of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), without the leave of the House, to attend this or any other ceremony or function which may be considered as part of his duties, the fact is that the provisions of that rule do not contemplate any motion as substantive as the one now being presented to the House without fulfilling the requirements of notice that pertain to every other substantive motion. I know that no one in this chamber is more aware of this provision than the hon. member who has just got his point across without conforming to the rules.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If my motion is not put and granted, does that mean the Prime Minister does not have the right to be absent on Thursday?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. member does not move, in the same motion, that I be given permission to absent myself to go to Washington. Surely, important though Winnipeg is, the relations between Canada and the United States are also very important.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, if there is unanimous consent, I shall be glad to add Washington to Winnipeg in the text of my motion.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, does the hon. member also want to ask the House to approve the unanimous instructions that he would want me to carry out in Washington?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I could try.