

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REQUEST FOR DEBATE ON LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 26, I request that an emergency debate be held on the feed grain supply in eastern Canada, and more particularly in Quebec.

This matter is vital, Mr. Speaker, and this is why:

(1) The longshoremen's labour conflict cuts off access to grain elevators. The longshoremen use this as a means to bring pressure to bear and, by doing so, they are endangering the life of the cattle because of a lack of food.

(2) Consequently, since the millers can no longer obtain feed grain as they cannot cross the longshoremen's picket lines, they cannot meet the demands of their customers for more than 24 hours.

(3) Yesterday, the minister stated that he knew that there was feed grain available, for instance in elevators and mills, as well as at the farmers' suppliers.

(4) The minister is ill-informed or misleads the House. I have here a telegram which clearly contradicts the statements made today by the minister and his parliamentary secretary, even though these statements might be true as concerns the port of Montreal, but this still increases production costs. The telegram, dated April 9 and received this morning, reads as follows:

Feed grain situation now tragic. Impossible to meet cattle feeding requirements.

Cannot conceive the irresponsibility regarding this issue. Unacceptable tolerance given to union leaders who perturb the economy with such irresponsibility. Urgent need for immediate action to deliver grain today to elevators.

Signed: Montmagny Farming Cooperative, A. Lamonde, Secretary.

And another letter says:

A lack of grain can be very harmful for our cattle and we are all aware of what could follow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Pursuant to the terms of Standing Order 26, the hon. member must understand that he is simply required to give a brief explanation of the urgency of the issue. I now invite him to propose his motion.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I would like to say that when similar labour troubles paralyzed the western ports in March, the Chair allowed a special debate even though that conflict was settled. Moreover, the government introduced emergency legislation for settling that conflict. I hope that the Chair will equally welcome today my motion dealing with eastern problems and urging the government to introduce a bill so as to settle this problem without delay. I therefore ask, in

Members' Salaries

accordance with the rules, that a special debate be held under Standing Order 26(10), since today is Wednesday, on the longshoremen's conflict in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Under Standing Order 26, the hon. member has given to the Chair the prescribed notice. I have studied very carefully his letter as well as the telegram to which he referred a moment ago. It surely deals with a very serious and important matter. It is also impossible to ignore that situation which is quickly changing from day to day.

Of course, in answer to some questions that have been asked, today's situation is different from that of yesterday, and it is changing quickly. I recall that the last time we had an urgent debate under Standing Order 26 on account of a strike in western Canada, I accepted the motion at three o'clock in the afternoon and at eight o'clock in the evening, the strike had been settled. Given the quick changes that occur every day, I would prefer to reject the motion to have an urgent debate this evening, but that does not mean that I do not consider the situation as a serious one. I invite the hon. member, and I am quite sure he will do so, to follow the situation very closely and reserve his decision for a few more days in order to consider it very prudently. If such a situation persists, it might be possible perhaps later for the hon. member to raise this question a second time.

● (1510)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT, THE SALARIES ACT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

The House resumed, from Tuesday, April 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp that Bill C-44, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) (p. 4623).

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, when the debate on Bill C-44 was adjourned at ten o'clock last evening I was pointing out that passing the bill, which grants very substantial increases to members of parliament and senators, will make it very difficult, if not impossible, for the government successfully to appeal to various segments of the Canadian population to restrain their demands for increased wages and salaries.

It is true that the members of the House and of the other place have not had an increase since 1971, although my recollection is that at that time the increase was substantial on the ground that it was to cover some years into the future. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the government has had ample opportunity since 1971 to set up some type of mechanism to deal with this matter, but has