

*Urgency of Debate on Wheat Prices*

**Mr. Nasserden:**—a member of the House of Commons who was opposed to the bulk sales to China—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nasserden:**—which sales are necessary at the present time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I find it difficult to relate the argument of the hon. member to the point at issue.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear

**Mr. Nasserden:** Mr. Speaker, I shall not attempt to carry on further in view of the reception from the other side of the house. I will say this, however. I was one of those who praised the minister for his attitude with regard to these things when he indicated during the pre-recess period that all was well and that we would be able to maintain prices in the interim period until the next agreement was signed. We took him at his word. We thought he spoke for this government. In the meantime we have had this sorry tale to hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary.

**Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary):** With respect to what you just said, Mr. Speaker, I feel there is one further point which should be brought to your attention at this time. In reading your decision of yesterday on a similar motion it seems to me that you stressed the matter of sudden emergency. I should like to bring to your attention that this matter of urgency does come under the heading of a sudden emergency. I believe the sudden emergency is the failure of the minister, through his United States counterpart, to state Canada's position clearly. You further stressed the fact that the whole thing might be a part of such a large subject that perhaps it should be held over for further legislation. But in this case I believe the emergency—the drop in the price of wheat and in wheat sales—demands that we have a full statement in the house and time now to debate the matter.

**Mr. Lawrence Watson (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I was very perturbed this afternoon to hear the members opposite shout "same old gang". In referring now to the urgency of the wheat situation in western Canada we feel there is no more urgent problem to discuss at the present time. This may not appear to be the case to a good many members of the government who are not familiar with the

situation in western Canada. We believe, however, that we are involved in one of the most serious situations to have arisen in many years. I should like to refer today to a quotation—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must remind the hon. member for Assiniboia as gently as I can, and with all good will, that again we are having a discussion which is out of order. This debate is entirely against the spirit of the rules of the house. Standing order 26 provides for a debate if the matter is recognized by the Chair as being of such national urgency that it warrants adjournment of the ordinary business of the house. What hon. members are invited to do at the present time, for the guidance of the Chair, is to indicate whether it is essential that we should set aside the ordinary business of the house for the purpose of discussing this particular matter.

I point out to the hon. member that the statement has been made by the government that time will be made available to discuss this matter. The time allotted may not be as much as hon. members feel should be made available to them for the consideration of this urgent situation, but I must suggest to the hon. member for Assiniboia and others who might wish to follow him that we should make an honest effort to limit these contributions to the matter of urgency of debate and not consider the essence of the subject matter of the motion.

**Mr. Watson (Assiniboia):** I appreciate your remarks very much, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. I should like merely to quote a few figures to back up my belief that this is a very urgent matter. At the present time in western Canada we have no wheat quotas, and we are having one of the shortest crops in a good many years. In May of this year a statement was made in the house to the effect that the price of wheat was going to go up.

● (3:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not like to interrupt hon. members, but there must be order in the house and we must attempt to run our business in an orderly way. It seems to me that the type of speech the hon. member has now embarked upon is exactly the same as he might make if the motion were accepted. Certainly at that time the hon. member would be addressing himself to the subject matter of this motion. I submit for the consideration of the hon. member and his

[Mr. Nasserden.]