

*Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act***PRAIRIE GRAIN ADVANCE
PAYMENTS ACT****AMENDMENT PROVIDING EMERGENCY
PAYMENTS TO MEET DRYING COSTS**

I have not seen the document; I see the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has a copy, as has my leader. He has handed it to me and from what I see I am convinced that what I have said is correct. It is debate. We have a rule saying there shall be no debate in the house at the resolution stage of a tax measure, and I do not think the minister can be allowed to break this rule in the present manner. It is good that the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) raised his point of privilege today. We should not have debate from one side when it is not allowed at all.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I need say too much, except that we are not circumventing any of the rules. The rules are there and are being given effect to. Really, the hon. member is inventing new restrictions. The rules speak for themselves and I think Your Honour can summarily reject the hon. member's objection.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I suggest the tabling of the document by the Minister of Finance in this way is improper, and that that tabling ought to be withheld until Your Honour has ruled on the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Unless hon. members wish to present further argument, I wish to say now that I agree with the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition. Because of the very serious point of privilege raised earlier by the hon. member for Peace River, the Chair indicated that the matter would be taken under advisement. I do not think it would be proper for the Chair to allow the tabling of the document at this time. With the agreement of all hon. members I will simply hold the document—I am not sure whether it will be held on the minister's desk, on the table, or in between, but it will not be considered as having been accepted for tabling at the present time.

Mr. Benson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Since this is an important matter, perhaps there will be unanimous consent to giving the bill first reading at this time, or taking a vote on first reading.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Has the government not circumvented enough rules already, for one day?

Some hon. Members: Do it tomorrow.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, last week the house debated at length the question of assistance to western farmers with respect to appropriate measures to be taken to assist them with tough and damp grain. As my colleagues indicated, the government intends to present a measure to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. I think there is agreement to what I am about to propose from all sides of the house; at least, up until about one hour ago there was agreement. I request leave of the house to waive the provisions of standing order 42(1) with respect to 48 hours notice for the introduction of a bill, so the bill may be given first reading at this time and then proceeded with at the first possible opportunity which will be tomorrow. We wish to give every assistance possible to our prairie farmers.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to waive the rules, as we always are for good cause when we can help our fellow citizens in the country.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We have already agreed to this, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, we have also agreed to postpone till tomorrow the debate on the wheat problem, and whenever a similar problem arises some day for the Eastern farmer, we trust we will be given the same co-operation.

[*English*]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-162, to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the house might allow the Chair to report to a bill introduced a moment ago by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. My understanding is that the royal recommendation has not yet been filed with the Clerk of the House in this regard. I take the liberty to