

Government Orders

Canadians are unwilling to pay the price for the food which would allow farmers to survive in that kind of production. The only places where we are able to survive fairly well is in exports.

Mr. Wappel: Mr. Speaker, I would say that the people in my riding of Scarborough West have never complained to me that the price of food is too low. There must be something going on between the time that the farmer sells the food at such a ridiculously low price according to the member and the time when my constituents buy the food. That is where there is a problem and that is what we can examine at some later date, but not when we are discussing Bill C-36.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for York West—Immigration—Investor program—Special ministerial permits/Government Response; the Hon. Member for Trinity—Spadina—Immigration—Backlog of refugee determination system; the Hon. Member for South West Nova—Fisheries.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROPS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-36, an Act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Foster (p.4275).

• (1550)

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise this afternoon to speak on Bill C-36, an act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act and the amendment to the motion which essentially calls for the bill not to be read at this time but six months from now.

Speaking directly to the amendment, I first want to suggest that postponing this bill for six months is not the effort that farm producers and producer groups would like to see. They would like to see this bill withdrawn completely and the existing act which was in place prior to the April budget of the finance minister be in force so they may have the full weight of the benefits of the advance payments act which existed prior to this year.

To clarify that a little further, the bill before us today essentially brings into practice what the Minister of Finance announced in the budget in April of this year, that the government would no longer pay interest on advances for the purchase of grain. The argument raised, of course, is that the government would rather use the \$27 million expended on this program than have the producers in the field use it.

Farm groups, of course, have said the advances are important because they allow producers to sell their crops when the prices are high, when they are in the bins and they cannot sell them, and I will elaborate on that a little bit more in a few minutes.

We have to remember that this program was brought in in 1957 and has served the farm community extremely well since then. The farm population has utilized the program and has found it to be of great benefit. The fact that the government is now in financial difficulties is no reason to penalize the farm community which oft-times have no other place to turn than this particular program.

There are a couple of things that I should mention. This program is extremely valuable at times like this when the agriculture community is in such a state of stress. The financial crisis in the farm sector is absolutely real. It is having an impact right down to the human level. In some cases farmers have taken their lives because they felt that they failed their fathers' generation, their fathers who had broken the land and had often lost hands or legs while building up the country and producing on the land for their children. Then their children come along, and because of policies of the previous government and this government, they can no