

Prairie Grain Stabilization Act

the province of Alberta than last year, merely because it was not to their liking.

There is one statement I should like to put on record before concluding. This statement was made by the secretary of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture when appearing before the committee. It appears in committee proceedings No. 54 at page 37.

Mr. Chairman, in our brief we did not go into the intricacies of the legislative process, thinking that that was perhaps something that you people could deal with, but we are quite clear on the principle, that this bill needs amending, that the total policy package needs amending, and that it is not satisfactory to be in a position where one runs the risk of a delayed payment of a very necessary \$100 million if one gives sufficient attention to the bill to get those amendments in the other part of it. If that requires separation, if that is the only way that can be done, then that is fine. The best way to do it is to amend the bill the way it needs to be amended right through the piece and to do it right away. That is the other way to do it, to accept our proposals for amendment of the whole bill, of course.

He goes on to suggest that this is a very complicated bill and a very great deal of time must be spent on it. I make no apology for the length of time this House has debated this complicated piece of legislation. It is regrettable the minister did not bring it forward earlier in order that it might have been passed last June. For some reason known best to himself and the cabinet, he introduced it in a proposal to the country on October 29, 1970 but withheld it from the House until April 3, 1971. It is regrettable he kept it to himself for that long.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED**

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Public Service—Extension of regional pay differentials; the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand)—External Affairs—Representations to Premier Kosygin on right of Soviet Jews to emigrate and rights of other ethnic groups.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT****PROVISION FOR PAYMENTS TO WESTERN CANADA PRODUCERS IN YEARS WHEN RECEIPTS BELOW FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE**

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-244, respecting the stabilization of prairie grain sale proceeds and to repeal or amend certain related statutes, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, and motions Nos. 1 and 2 of Mr. Gleave (page 7252).

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I understand that shortly before we had the vote on

[Mr. Horner.]

the motion to adjourn in the name of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), the minister responsible for the Wheat Board intimated that for some unknown reason the responsibility for bringing this bill back today rests on my shoulders. Perhaps the minister did not intend to create that impression, and if that is the case I will pause here for a moment to allow him to stand and say so.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the statement I made was perhaps more general than that, but I would be pleased to be more specific with regard to the matter. I indicated to the leader of the NDP, who was then speaking, that if the understanding which the house leader of the NDP and I had arrived at had been shared more widely or generally in the House there might, indeed, have been no debate today. If you would like me to be more specific about what I was saying I shall attempt to do so.

I was indicating that during our discussion with the House leader of the Progressive Conservative party there was some indication that any delay or postponement of the debate on both the bill and on any question of legality under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act would depend to some extent on the likelihood of amendments being accepted to Bill C-244. We thought in all fairness to him we should make it clear that the purpose of any delay was, in fact, to give us time to consider what our reply should be to representations made to us rather than for any other reason, and that in our view any question of an amendment to Bill C-244 at this stage of the proceeding was pretty remote.

As I understood it, it was no longer acceptable to the Progressive Conservative party, represented by the House leader, that the debate on both questions should be delayed. For that reason I understood there was not the kind of agreement on all sides in respect of which the request of the prairie agricultural ministers could be accepted. Therefore the order of business was confirmed in the original format, and Bill C-244 was called.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, the minister has clarified the situation to some extent, but I think I have no alternative than to repeat what I said this afternoon when the House opened. Throughout the discussions which took place last Friday, the firm impression was created in my mind that one of the reasons for seeking a moratorium in respect of the debate on this bill for a week was, among other things, to consider the question of whether there would be amendments to the bill. Quite frankly this was the main subject of the exercise at the inception of this debate. Our side made this quite plain. Without any substantial amendments our views could hardly be met.

• (5:20 p.m.)

I kept that view until this morning when, in discussion with the Government House Leader, I told him this was my impression and he then, I assume, got in touch with the minister. The minister then made the statement, which the government House leader repeated to me, that the chances of any amendment to Bill C-244 were very, very remote. I think those were the words the minister used. In any event, they are the words which were passed on to me. On that basis, I had to say the impression I had derived on Friday was certainly changed, and so far as we were concerned there could be no commitments given of