

I could go on and talk more about what has happened with respect to OPEC prices, but getting back to this bill I hope the minister will read this speech. I hope he will address his mind to the points raised, because I think if he were to address his mind to the indexation of the \$5 floor price and if he were to address his mind to making it retroactive from even June 1 rather than August 1, that would go a long way toward being a sign of good faith by this big institution in Ottawa toward the small producers of western Canada.

I believe I can call it four o'clock.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It being 4 p.m., the House will proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions, public bills and private bills.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

**Mr. Collenette:** Mr. Speaker, you will remember that last Friday I informed the House that it would be my intention at four o'clock today to seek unanimous consent to proceed with all stages of a number of private bills to effect name changes in constituencies. This will be done very quickly and should not impinge too much on the time of the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) with his motion, and I ask leave of the House to proceed in that manner with all those bills, including the bill which was introduced today, by leave, in the name of the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Deniger).

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions, and we are prepared to consent.

**Mr. Knowles:** That is correct, Mr. Speaker. We too are party to the agreement. I hope it will be possible to give second reading to several bills on one motion to save a little more time that way as well.

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## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

PASSAGE OF BILLS C-268, C-402, C-488, C-529, C-565, C-599, C-600, C-601, C-602, C-604, C-605, C-606, C-608 AND C-609

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council)** moved that Bills C-268, C-402, C-488, C-529, C-565, C-599, C-600, C-601, C-602, C-604, C-605, C-606, C-608, and C-609, to change the names of electoral districts, be read the second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to, bills read the second time, considered in Committee of the Whole, reported, read the third time and passed.

## Grain Prices

● (1600)

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES OF MOTIONS

[English]

### GRAIN

#### PRODUCTION COSTS SUGGESTED AS BASIS FOR FLOOR PRICES

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of setting floor prices related to costs of production for cereal and oilseed crops one month before planting in order that farmers may be provided adequate returns to ensure sufficient production to meet Canada's domestic and export needs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, with the spirit of co-operation in the House today, I was almost willing to forgo my speech in anticipation of acceptance of this motion; we have been doing so well today.

**Mr. Knowles:** Carried.

**Mr. Schellenberger:** Also I am most pleased that the motion has caused both the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board to be present today. I am very pleased, because I know it is an important motion in which both of these ministers are very interested. As I speak briefly and take them through the statistical and logical reasons why the setting of an initial price should have some base rather than the Wheat Board pool account, I hope they will agree this is a reasonable motion and something the Standing Committee on Agriculture should study very thoroughly.

At the present time each year the minister responsible for the Wheat Board sets an initial price. That initial price is the price which farmers receive for deliveries to the elevator. I am sure that price is based upon last year's pooling account and not upon any other reason, particularly the most important one, which is the cost of production a farmer must face in order to produce wheat.

Let us have a look at the statistics. I hope the House will bear with me because often statistics are not the most pleasurable in speeches, but they are very important to this motion. Farm input costs have grown much faster than the consumer price index. In 1979 the farm input price index was 12.5 per cent and the consumer price index was 9 per cent. If we look back at the 1960s, both of these indexes were very similar. They both rose at rates of about 3 per cent per year. But that changed very rapidly in the 1970s.

If we look at 1979 over 1978, fertilizer costs have gone up 18 per cent, machinery costs up 14 per cent, labour up 7.3 per cent, and since 1971 petroleum has gone up 100 per cent. What has really happened? From 1971 to 1979 the consumer price index rose 90 per cent, but the farm price index has risen 130 per cent. This is a tremendous difference.

If we look again at the statistics I quoted in relation to 1979 over 1978, between 1971 and 1979 fertilizer prices have risen