

Grain—Proposed Cash Advances

which the government has always so fittingly recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I eagerly second the motion of the hon. member for Timiskaming.

(Text):

On motion of Mr. Drew the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: We shall continue this debate tomorrow and Friday.

GRAIN

CASH ADVANCES ON FARM STORAGE—MOTION
FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING
ORDER 26

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Before the house adjourns I would like to move a motion for the adjournment of the house to consider a matter of urgent public importance. I am one of those who—

Mr. Speaker: May I interrupt the hon. member at this point, because he says he wishes to move the adjournment of the house for a certain purpose. A motion to adjourn the debate has already been passed. Is the hon. member going to indicate that his motion to adjourn the house for a definite purpose is in order at this stage?

Mr. Coldwell: I do, yes. May I read it? I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue), to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 26 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the need for immediate action to provide cash advances on farm-stored grain to alleviate the serious financial crisis now confronting western farmers and the entire economy of the prairie provinces. I make this motion because I believe that this is the right time to move it.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member be good enough to comment further on his contention that this is the right place to move this motion?

Mr. Coldwell: Under standing order 26 a member is entitled to move the adjournment of the debate for the consideration of an urgent matter of public importance. The time to move that is after starred questions on Wednesday. There were no starred questions on the order paper today, and there being no starred questions on the order paper they could not be called. Hence if they could not be called that should not preclude a member

[Mr. Laflamme.]

from rising in his place and making an appropriate motion at the appropriate time. I submit that the fact that there were no starred questions does not take away from an hon. member the right to move a motion such as I have already moved.

Mr. Speaker: The reason the words "after starred questions on Wednesday" were added to this standing order was that the house wanted to make sure that starred questions would be disposed of on that particular day. It should be understood that a motion of this kind, being one of urgency, must be made at the very first opportunity. This motion is such as to stop discussion on any other matter. Therefore I think it should have been moved after routine business had been concluded, even on a day like today when there are no starred questions.

It is quite evident why there are no starred questions today. Under another standing order 48 hours' notice must be given, and the house met only yesterday. We passed a motion yesterday afternoon to the effect that today we would take as the first order of business the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. We have now reached the stage where an ordinary adjournment motion could be made, a motion such as a motion to adjourn the house. Such a motion is non-debatable.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), thinking that standing order 26 was the one on which he could depend at this juncture, has moved this particular motion. If the hon. member and I do not agree on what I have said so far I think he will agree with me as to this further point. Whenever the speech from the throne is the first order of business no other motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance should be entertained.

The urgency of debate is something that has to be considered. The acting leader of the house has indicated by his announcement of the order that tomorrow the matter referred to in this motion could be discussed. In my experience it has never happened in the house that while the speech from the throne was being currently debated a motion for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance under the new standing order 26 was agreed to.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, would you permit a comment on this point? First of all, may I suggest that one should be aware of the fact