

or other appointed business would afford an early opportunity have been ruled to be out of order.

As late as yesterday a question was discussed on the motion to go into supply, by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell). This matter could well have been discussed on such a motion; it can be discussed at any time before going into supply, or in supply on certain estimates. I do not see that this is one of the matters that can be raised in the house under this very limited rule.

Mr. PERLEY: The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) says that this must be a matter that cannot be discussed in any other way. May I remind him that on several occasions since May 16 we have endeavoured to obtain a statement from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) as to when we would have an opportunity to discuss this all-important question. We have been put off by being told that it was under consideration. It has been under consideration for a month or more, yet I understand that yesterday a definite announcement was made which should have been made in this house. Therefore I say we have not had an opportunity of discussing this question.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): With regard to the point of order raised by the Minister of Justice, and his reference to paragraph 244 of Beauchesne, I submit that next to the war itself the subject of the motion of the hon. member is one of the most urgent matters this house can discuss. The question of the disposition of our wheat carry-over and of this season's crop is of extreme importance, and no early opportunity is available to this house to discuss it, since the order for the day is the budget debate, which may go on for a week or ten days. Furthermore, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) has indicated that an opportunity has been sought on several occasions, and we are all aware that this is a fact. The minister has been asked as to the policy of the government with respect to this matter, which we all agree is very serious and important; and the reply has been that it was still under discussion and consideration. Then what happened? Announcement was made in the Winnipeg grain exchange, outside of this house and while this house is in session. This is a very important point which I think should not be overlooked. On more than one occasion this session I have tried to impress upon the Prime Minister and the members of the government that this sort of thing is all wrong and should not happen. This is a matter of urgent public importance, and the Minister of Justice has not indicated that it may be discussed on an early occasion.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec-East): It could be discussed this afternoon in the budget debate.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Theoretically that may be correct; practically it is not possible, as no one knows better than the Minister of Justice. He knows that arrangements were made, to which I agreed, that the budget debate should go on this afternoon, but this matter arose after that arrangement was made. I suggest to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice that, small in numbers as we are over here, if they want to get cooperation in their war effort they had better show a little reciprocity in a matter of this kind.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): All right. That is not a threat; it is a promise. If I have to I will go so far as to make an appeal to the Prime Minister to let this question be debated this afternoon. I do submit that in the interests of the producers of western Canada, of the people of Canada and, may I say, of the treasury of Canada, the matter ought to be discussed in the house this afternoon. Let the debate go on; it will not take very long. This thing has been smouldering for a month or more and it ought to be debated now. I am told that instructions have gone out to the western country, through a group of grain companies, not to buy any more wheat, and that buying has ceased. I do not know whether that is true, but if it is true it is a mighty important thing to the western producer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am sure my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) will agree that it is not desirable, if it can be avoided, to create precedents which are likely to prove embarrassing on future occasions. If there were no opportunity for the hon. member for Qu'Appelle to speak to-day on the subject he has brought up as one of urgent public importance, I should go a long way to meet the request of the leader of the opposition, despite the embarrassment it might create later on. But I do point out to him that this afternoon, following the remarks of the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) who is to be the first to reply to the Minister of Finance in the budget debate, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle might have an opportunity to take up the subject to which he has referred. It would be quite in order for the hon. member to speak then, and it would be quite agreeable to this side of the house to have him follow immediately after, if that is agreeable to hon. gentlemen opposite.