

## MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

### AGRICULTURE—SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member would do a courtesy to the Chair to let me interrupt him. It does not happen often but I have to deal with another matter.

There was an application made earlier today for an emergency debate by the hon. member for Algoma. As members know, the consequence of discussions earlier this afternoon related to the usual Thursday afternoon question and an allotted day has been set for next week. The hon. member for Kamloops has indicated that the subject of the application for the emergency debate will be the subject of the allotted day debate. This was brought on immediately today by the hon. member for Algoma and had been brought on earlier in the week by others, including the hon. member for Mackenzie. As a consequence, I would of course be bound by the stricture on the Speaker that in cases where there is an application for an emergency debate and there is another available opportunity for hearing it, it would not be appropriate to go ahead with the order.

• (1530)

Clearly the debate on Wednesday on the subject matter of the application puts that stricture on the Speaker and I do not need to deal further with the application for the emergency debate.

Throughout this entire matter I thank all hon. members and I thank the hon. government House leader this afternoon for his disposition of the matter.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-21, an act to amend the Canada Assistance Plan, be read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, when I was speaking earlier, I suggested that the job of government is to take the scarce resources that

### *Government Orders*

government can raise in taxation and try to manage those scarce resources as best as possible.

This bill increases the transfer of money to the Canada Assistance Plan by 5 per cent over and above what it would normally be. Bear in mind that inflation is now likely to be 1 per cent or 2 per cent this year. Possibly it could be as high as 3 per cent, but in most cases it is likely to be more like 2 per cent or less. This is a very substantial and real increase in the transfer of money from a government coffer that is exceedingly poor.

Anyone who reads the material coming available will know that tax revenues in the country are off about \$8 billion, yet this government is still able to make a very substantial increase in transfers to provincial governments to solve problems.

The Canada Assistance Plan is a vital and important program for Canada to try to look after those people who for want of a job, for want of opportunity, for want of education, for want of many things have difficulty in looking after all of their responsibilities themselves. That there are a lot of people in our country who need help is taken for granted.

What we have to do as government is ration our scarce reserves and this bill attempts to do that in a realistic fashion. I am indeed surprised that the opposition would filibuster this bill as it has now for three days to try to hammer home some point to throw all caution to the wind and just pay and pay and pay without paying attention to the fact that this bill makes a substantial increase over and above inflation. This is a real increase in the amount of scarce money that can be applied.

The previous speaker spoke of Versatile Pacific and how that company went broke. A lot of companies have gone broke. They have had to restructure and they cannot make it together. Corporate profits in this year are as low as they have been historically since the very worst time in the Great Depression. It is less than 5 per cent on average. The effect is that proposals to beat up business by the New Democratic Party are only proposals designed to force on more unemployment.

**Mr. Milliken:** That is what they are doing in Ontario.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Indeed that is what they are doing in Ontario. Their whole game in Ontario was spend the system broke. We did not have \$341 billion of outstanding market debt. If we were not using 35 per cent or 36 per cent of the tax revenues we receive just to pay interest, perhaps we would have more money to make