

Food Prices Committee

NAYS

Messrs.

Allmand	Guay (Lévis)	Neale
Andras	Guilbault	(Vancouver East)
Barnett	Haidasz	Nelson
Basford	Harding	Nesdoly
Béchar	Harney	Nystrom
Bégin (Miss)	Herbert	Olaussen
Benjamin	Hopkins	Olivier
Blackburn	Howard	Orlikov
Blais	Hymmen	Ouellet
Blaker	Isabelle	Pelletier
Blouin	Jamieson	(Hochelega)
Boulanger	Jerome	Pelletier
Breau	Knight	(Sherbrooke)
Brewin	Knowles (Winnipeg	Penner
Broadbent	North Centre)	Portelance
Buchanan	Lachance	Poulin
Caccia	Laflamme	Prud'homme
Cafik	Lajoie	Railton
Campbell	Lalonde	Reid
Caron	Lang	Richardson
Clermont	Langlois	Rodriguez
Comtois	Laniel	Rompkey
Corbin	La Salle	Rooney
Corriveau	Leblanc (Laurier)	Rose
Côté	Leblanc	Rowland
Cullen	(Westmorland-	Roy (Timmins)
Cyr	Kent)	Roy (Laval)
Danson	Lefebvre	Saltsman
Davis	Leggatt	Sauvé (Mrs.)
De Bané	Lessard	Sharp
Demers	Lewis	Smith
Douglas	L'Heureux	(Northumberland-
Drury	Loiselle	Miramichi)
Dubé	MacDonald	Smith (Saint-Jean)
Dupont	(Cardigan)	Stanbury
Dupras	Macdonald	Stewart (Okanagan-
Duquet	(Rosedale)	Kootenav)
Éthier	MacEachen	Stewart (Cochrane)
Faulkner	MacGuigan	Stollery
Firth	MacInnis (Mrs.)	Symes
Fleming	Mackasey	Thomas (Maison-
Foster	Marceau	neuve-Rosemont)
Fox	Marchand	Trudeau
Gauthier	(Langelier)	Trudel
(Ottawa East)	Marchand	Turner (London
Gendron	(Kamloops-	East)
Gilbert	Cariboo)	Turner
Gillespie	Mather	(Ottawa-Carleton)
Gleave	McRae	Walker
Goyer	Morin (Mrs.)	Watson
Gray	Munro	Whelan
Grier	(Hamilton East)	Whicher
Guay		Yanakis—139.
(St. Boniface)		

● (1550)

Mr. Speaker: The House will now return to consideration of the main motion as amended.

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to rise to discuss some of the important matters and criteria that this committee should examine in respect of food prices. I was somewhat amazed by some of the amendments moved. We have now entered an era in which that great party of tradition and protection in this country has moved an amendment to eliminate the other place. This has been quite a change.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I simply want to remind the hon. member that he cannot reflect on a vote. There

[Mr. Speaker.]

should not be any debate on a matter that has been decided by a vote in the House.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, in this nation we have had a series of committees examining the matter of food prices as they affect the consumer. Quite often those committees have not considered the problems that are faced by the producers. Certainly, there is ample evidence to indicate a need for a revision of the entire food industry from the primary producer to the consumer. The criteria outlined for the study could well be expanded to include a considerable number of items in addition to those in the terms of reference. This is certainly true when we consider that in 1949 farmers were receiving 57 per cent of the food dollar, while in 1972 they are receiving only 38 per cent of that food dollar. Surely, this is an area which ought to be examined as well.

I am not so much concerned about the kind of debate which has taken place, and some of it has been very good. What disturbs me is that before this motion to establish a committee was put forward the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) consulted with the food industry to determine whether there should be an examination of the food industry. He wanted to know if it would be all right to examine this whole area as well as the corporate interests involved. There was no minister of finance in the constituency of Assiniboia asking the farmers about a study of food prices as they related to them. There was no minister of finance asking the consumers of this nation what effect an examination of food prices would have on them. The minister went to the food industry for consultation, which indicates the relationship between the corporate interests and the present government. He wanted to know if it would be all right to have an investigation of the situation.

When the measure is adopted we will have a committee of 25 members with the old line parties having equal membership, and with three members from the NDP. I can see how the consumers and farmers of this country can be helped by that situation. There ought to be a clear examination of the structure of corporate power within this nation and how it relates to food prices.

Mr. Mazankowski: Who voted with the government?

Mr. Knight: I am sure that the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) can find some kind of agreement in his Tory heart. He knows the plight of the farmers. He knows that wheat is selling to the milling companies for \$1.95 a bushel while domestic wheat is bringing, on the average, \$2.63 a bushel.

Mr. Mazankowski: You supported the government.

Mr. Knight: The price is \$1.95½ for milling wheat, but the actual market price is up to \$2.63 a bushel. I suggest the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) should learn that farmers are not going to be fooled by the two-price system which allows the price of wheat to milling companies to stand at \$1.95½ per bushel. There has been no sign from that group that there will be any change in this kind of situation, certainly not by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski). The Minister of Finance had an interview with the members of the food industry with regard to what could be done, and this parliament, through amend-