

*Grain Prices*

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker—

**Mr. Kempling:** He cuts his lawn every weekend.

**Mr. Evans:** Yes I do. I am proud to do it. If those clippings could be brought together in one place, I would be glad to make them available to feed cattle.

Hon. members today have put forward a motion that has to do with a floor price for grain and oil seeds. I would like to say a few words about the problems that I see in establishing such a floor price and some of the difficulties that we would face if such a program were to be brought forward. Some of these difficulties deal with the estimation of farm production costs.

**Mr. Knowles:** Look to the Speaker. Don't look to the door.

**Mr. Kempling:** Black Rod is going to get you.

**Mr. Evans:** I was not referring to the door. I was referring to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to whom I always look for wisdom and advice.

Unfortunately there are major difficulties in estimating the production costs that would be necessary to establish a meaningful floor price for these grains and oil seeds. First, there is a lack of determined price information for the farmer's own labour and management, which are major inputs into the cost of production. Second, there are problems of computing an opportunity cost for the use of crop land. Finally, there is the extremely wide variability for the cost of producing a farm commodity such as grain in different parts of the prairie provinces.

Madam Speaker, if we had more time this afternoon I would like to go into detail in all of these areas and indicate the economics of establishing a minimum price for grains and oil seeds and why I would not think it would be a wise thing for us to do at this time.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** On a point of order, Madam Speaker, there have been some discussions in the House with respect to the availability to members of Parliament for their use, of copies of Bill C-36. The bill is in great demand by all members. I wonder if it might facilitate things, particularly for the printing and distribution branch and for the operation of the House of Commons, not to mention the members, if the House could agree to an order to have extra copies of Bill C-36 printed for the use of members of Parliament in a quantity that would be acceptable to the Clerk of the House of Commons. I put it as precisely as that to assist you and hon. members in understanding the purport of what I ask.

**Madam Speaker:** I suppose the House has no objection. In fact we are overwhelmed with requests for this bill. If the House agrees, we will see to it that supplementary copies are printed.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill C-28, an act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act; and Bill C-36, an act respecting the national anthem of Canada.

● (1700)

## ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1710)

And being returned:

**Madam Speaker** informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

Bill C-36, an act respecting the national anthem of Canada—Chapter No. 5.

Bill C-17, an act to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act—Chapter No. 6.

Bill C-27, an act to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act—Chapter No. 7.

Bill S-3, an act to amend an act to provide for the appointment of a Port Warden for the harbour of Quebec and to amend an act to amend and consolidate the acts relating to the office of Port Warden for the harbour of Montreal—Chapter No. 8.

Bill C-21, an act to implement the International Convention for Safe Containers—Chapter No. 9.

Bill C-20, an act to amend the Federal Business Development Bank Act—Chapter No. 10.

Bill C-28, an act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act—Chapter No. 11.

**Madam Speaker:** It being five o'clock, pursuant to the provisions of subsections 1 and 3 of Standing Order 2, the House stands adjourned until Wednesday, July 2, 1980, at 2 p.m.

[English]

I invite all hon. members to come and celebrate this great event for Canada and its people in my chambers.

At 5.13 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.