

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN****REQUEST FOR INCREASES IN INITIAL PAYMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the appropriate minister I direct this question to the Prime Minister. Will the government of Canada not give consideration to raising the initial payment for the 1966-67 crop year by 25 cents per bushel on wheat, 14 cents per bushel on barley and 10 cents a bushel on oats?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister responsible, the Minister of Finance, dealt with this matter a day or two ago when he said the matter was under consideration.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Now that the request of the opposition has received the approbation of recent events, does the government not feel that the time is here for it to announce these increases so the farmers will not suffer by reason of the accelerating cost of living, cost of machinery and the like? Is there no answer?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I said the matter was under consideration. We will do our best to see that the farmers do not suffer.

Mr. Diefenbaker: For 47 years health insurance was under consideration, too.

AGRICULTURE**CHURCHILL, MAN.—REQUEST FOR GREATER USE OF ELEVATOR STORAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask if he has received any representations from the secretary of the Hudson Bay Route Association to the effect that the Churchill terminal elevator is to remain almost empty this winter as it did last winter. Has the minister heard the contention of the secretary that there is adequate grain within a radius of 700 miles, as well as adequate numbers of box cars, to fill this elevator for the coming winter? Also may I ask the minister whether any action is being taken to see that full and complete use is made of the storage and handling facilities of the Churchill terminal elevator during this coming winter and spring.

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, you have not given a ruling on the question of whether the Minister of National Defence is entitled to sit in this house under the present circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: Please. This is not the question of privilege; the hon. member is making a point of debate. He is making a specific suggestion now which he knows can only be presented by certain methods which are in accordance with the rules. The hon. member cannot ask the Chair whether he, an hon. member for any other riding in Canada or any member of the cabinet has the right to sit in the house. Only members of parliament can decide that. Certainly the Chair cannot.

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, that is a question of privilege which I think is valid. I could not give you notice of it because this question does not arise until the minister takes his seat in the house. Therefore no written notice was required. This is a question of privilege, I submit, involving every member in this house. It is our business to suggest to individuals in this chamber under what conditions they shall sit in it, and what behaviour they must observe in order to have the right to sit here. I suggest it is contempt of parliament for the minister, in view of these serious charges, to be permitted—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is repeating now for the second or third time a statement he has made before, but he knows what the rules are. The only way he can bring up this type of question, if it is a question of privilege, is under the proper circumstances. There has been a ruling that it has not been done under the proper circumstances.

If the hon. member feels that some type of action should be taken by the house, he knows that this has to be done by motion. Certainly no hon. member can rise in this house and say "I do not think the hon. member for such and such a constituency has any right to sit here", thinking he can initiate a debate in this way. There are rules to be followed, and the hon. member cannot do this unless he does it in the proper way. The motion the hon. member may have in mind is a substantive motion which has to be moved with notice given in the proper way.

Mr. Nugent: May I give notice, Mr. Speaker, that I shall be moving a motion?

Mr. Speaker: Of course it has to be written notice, according to the rules.