

Mr. ABBOTT: No one need go ahead and build more hothouses to grow more tomatoes and lettuce.

An hon. MEMBER: Why not?

Mr. ABBOTT: If they want to do so they do it at their own risk. We are not putting on prohibitions to encourage the production in this country of hothouse tomatoes and lettuce in the winter. Why should we? If conditions were normal it would be far better to buy lettuce and tomatoes where they are grown naturally in the open and to sell something else to the United States. This measure is not put on as a protective measure to enable industry to expand or increase behind what is the greatest form of protection, namely a prohibition. It is not for that purpose. It is a temporary measure because we have to do it. It is put on reluctantly, and anyone who expands production in a particular field, relying on the protection which is afforded by these prohibitions, must do so at his own risk.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is before the committee now is simply the short title, "This act may be cited as the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act". The rule is very clear. Standing order 58 states that speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration. I wish to appeal to hon. members to try to conduct the business of the house in an orderly way. There is no reason in the world why we should discuss all these matters on the short title. When we come to the different clauses these matters can be discussed in their order. I think hon. members ought to agree now to follow the rules of the house. I appeal to them to pass this clause and get on with the clauses that deal with any of the matters which have been brought up under clause 1.

Mr. LENNARD: There is one point I want to call to the attention of the Minister of Finance. I did not for a moment intimate that the acreage under glass should be increased by one foot. I wish that distinctly understood. But the growers want to know what to grow that will be most beneficial to the people of Canada. Would it not be better to grow vegetables than flowers, something necessary for the people.

Mr. ABBOTT: I should like to be able to help the growers. My hon. friend has asked a direct question. I do not know that it is very much better for the people of Canada to have hothouse lettuce grown in Canada than hothouse flowers. It is fifty-fifty. Obviously

[Mr. Pouliot.]

there are not enough hothouses in Canada to provide everyone who wants lettuce with that vegetable. Lettuce grown in winter is a straight luxury commodity, and I consider that the people who want to buy hothouse lettuce in winter can pay the price if they have the money. If you were importing lettuce, if you had the United States dollars to import it in volume from the United States or anywhere else at reasonable prices, and if everyone could buy it, well and good. But when you cannot do that, then I say that lettuce grown under glass is a special luxury product which those who can afford it can pay for.

Mr. GREEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, before you took the Chair we had a discussion with regard to what would or would not be in order on this section. The Deputy Speaker was then in the Chair, and it was pretty well agreed on all sides of the house—and certainly he did not question us on our submission—that any discussion of general administration of the plan would be in order on this first section.

An hon. MEMBER: That was not agreed to.

Mr. GREEN: We were not ruled out of order. The Postmaster General has been sitting here all evening and he did not make one peep about its being out of order.

Mr. ABBOTT: The Deputy Speaker was doing his best.

Mr. GREEN: The questions asked in the last half hour have been all of a general nature having to do with the general administration of the plan, and I submit to Your Honour that as long as they are of that type they are in order. I agree that if we were dealing with questions which could be brought up under specific sections, the questions would not be in order, but that is not the case.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In answer to my hon. friend I would say—and I think he will agree with me—that many of the questions which were raised would be more properly raised when the various clauses are before the committee. I would point out that before six o'clock I made an attempt to get the members of the committee to deal with this bill in an orderly manner; that is, to deal with clause 1, which is only the short title, and then go on with the other clauses and deal with the different matters which have been discussed here. But we have not reached the other clauses at all. Surely my hon. friend does not contend that this is an orderly and proper way in which to deal with