

*Motions for Papers*

I wish, under the provisions of Standing Order 26, to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the serious situation facing the milk producers of Canada as indicated in the release of the B.F.S. of July 17, 1969. There is an urgent need for this matter to be discussed in parliament, so that hon. members can make known the needs of their constituents and so that the government may make a statement of policy without delay.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I think that under standing order 26 of the House of Commons, this motion to adjourn the business of the house is extremely important because the house could give its full attention to a more than alarming situation since there is every indication that a very serious agricultural crisis is impending.

The situation has fallen upon us very suddenly. It is new in that it could not be foreseen. In fact, specialists had at best underestimated it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows that under the rules, he can only indicate the subject of his motion. He cannot make any points to prove the urgency of the debate, the decision being left to the Speaker. The hon. member should conclude his statement as soon as possible.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your helpful remarks and your kindness.

The famous report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics dated July 7 states that in 1968 the farmers' net income accruing from the agricultural industry was 8.7 per cent lower than for the worst year since 1961.

Now, this same document states that this is due to higher operating and amortizing costs.

As such a situation could not be foreseen and will certainly not come up for debate, judging from the orders of the day, I ask, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse, for the consent of the house to study this matter, to put forward the views of our electors and to find out the government's policy on this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has given notice to the Chair of the question he intended to ask pursuant to Standing Order 26. Even by bending over backward and even if his argument was put to the house in what he terms the second official language of this country, I am not fully satisfied that his motion is in order and can now be considered by the house.

I feel that the subject that the hon. member wants to discuss refers to a lasting situation and not to one of sudden urgency. May I be allowed to refer the hon. member to Citation 100 (8) of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Fourth Edition, and I quote:

—what I think was contemplated, was an occurrence of some sudden emergency, either in home or in foreign affairs. But I do not think it was contemplated—if the House will allow me to state my views—that a question of very wide scope, which would demand legislation to deal with it in any effective manner, should be the subject of discussion on a motion for the adjournment of the House.

To my mind, the relevant part of that quotation is that the motion is acceptable only if it concerns a matter that has unexpectedly become urgent, to a certain extent, and not if it concerns a situation that has prevailed for some time.

If I understood correctly the hon. member's comments, the question is no doubt both important and urgent, but it has prevailed for some time. To that extent, I do not believe that it would be in order to adjourn the business of the house to allow the hon. member to make known his views on the matter.

**Mr. Fortin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I willingly accept your comments but, in all kindness, if you would allow me to show that there is a new set of circumstances—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In all kindness, I might allow you to do this, but the rules do not allow it.

**MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, notices of motions Nos. 146, 211, 218 and 229 are acceptable to the government.

[*English*]

**TRANSFER OF MINISTERIAL DUTIES**

**Motion No. 146—Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Canada and organizations of Native Indian people regarding the transfer of duties of the Minister without Portfolio (Port Arthur)—from Indian Affairs to Housing responsibilities.

Motion agreed to.