

Apparently these scanners meet the government specifications which were taken from the makers' specifications and incorporated into a standard acceptable to the Canadian government. These particular scanners have been offered to a development corporation in Alberta. I understand the operators and the machines are to be flown to Alberta in order to carry out this audit for this development corporation, even though similar machines already exist in Calgary in the hands of independent operators.

The government has moved into this field, and taken the bread and butter, or the dollars if you like, out of the hands of some private enterprises which can just as easily do the operation in Calgary for the development company. I hope to develop this notion sometime in question period in order to find out exactly why the federal government entered into this field already occupied by private industry. I suppose, when one considers what has been happening in the past two weeks in the constitutional committee, and what we are seeing in terms of Petro-Canada's absorption of other facets of our industry, it is not surprising that the federal government should be moving in on private industry and destroying the livelihood of a number of companies.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** It being five o'clock, it is my duty to rise, report progress, and ask leave to consider the bill again later this day.

Progress reported.

● (1700)

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—National Security—U.S.S.R. cruise ship "Odessa"—Inquiry whether security checks conducted; the hon. member for York North (Mr. Gamble)—National Revenue—Inquiry whether taxes will be reduced; and the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose)—Communications—Licence renewals and transfers—Provision of policy guidelines.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, public bills, private bills, notices of motions.

### *Prairie Farm Assistance Act*

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

Items Nos. 17, 18, 22, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 43 and 44 allowed to stand by unanimous consent.

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### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

MEASURE TO REPEAL

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Before putting the question on Bill C-245, an act to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Chair ought to register reservations and enter a caveat as to the procedural acceptability of this bill. I am of the view that certain provisions of the bill may involve the expenditure of public funds, which can only be authorized by way of a Royal recommendation. However, since the Chair does not want to take too much of the time of private members' hour to rule now, I intend to allow the debate on the bill without prejudice to the decision which may have to be made on the procedural acceptability of the bill at the conclusion of the debate on second reading.

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw)** moved that Bill C-245, to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your comments. I do not want to get into a procedural debate with respect to whether the bill applies; I would simply say that the moneys referred to in the subject matter of the bill are not government moneys but moneys belonging to the producers of western Canada. I do not think they would come within the purview of the remarks you have made.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on Bill C-245, a private member's bill, the effect of which is to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and to set up a trust for the purpose of taking certain moneys and using the interest on those moneys for the purpose of research and development. I will not go into a detailed history of the act or the administration of the act as I expect to have the opportunity to do so at some future time. Suffice it to say that the PFAA was passed in 1939. Its purpose was to give crop failure assistance to western grain producers.

The money for that purpose was raised by a 1 per cent levy against deliveries of all grains by producers in western Canada. The levy was paid into a fund set up under the act entitled the prairie farm emergency fund. For various reasons that plan was phased out in 1972 and, in August of that year, collection of the 1 per cent levy on the producers' deliveries was discontinued.

If one examines the Public Accounts of 1978-79 one finds that under the prairie farm emergency fund there is to the credit of that fund some \$9,066,972. This money has been on deposit in that fund since 1972. It represents the balance