

sub-section (5) of Standing Order 26 requires—perhaps it might be worthwhile to quote it as follows:

In determining whether a matter should have urgent consideration, Mr. Speaker shall have regard to the extent to which it concerns the administrative responsibilities of the government or could come within the scope of ministerial action—

The sub-section goes on to state, and I think these are the important words:

—he also shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within reasonable time by other means.

● (1110)

In view of that language it has become a rather strong practice of the House—and specific reference has been made to this in the past—that only under the most exceptional circumstances should a motion be allowed under Standing Order 26 during the currency of the Throne Speech debate because of the ample opportunity provided during that debate for hon. members or other hon. members of their party to raise subjects of special importance in whatever manner they see fit. Accordingly, I might refer to earlier references, one of January 11, 1956 in which the subject of cash advances on farm stored grain was raised and reported in *Hansard* of that day. This was a motion under Standing Order 26 in which the Speaker of the day made the following comment:

In my experience it has never happened in the House that while the Speech from the Throne was being currently debated a motion for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance under the new Standing Order 26 was agreed to.

The subject was similarly discussed on February 18, 1972 by the previous Speaker. Without going into the details I would simply give members that reference so that they might look at it. In this situation, the fact that the Throne Speech debate has two more days to run and the fact that although this subject is of a continuing nature and the problem has gone on for some time in the past, would lead me to the conclusion that the remaining days in the address should provide an opportunity to bring the matter to the attention of the government, in addition to which of course there will be available soon opposition days. There is, of course, the availability of today or tomorrow for the hon. member or other hon. members to raise the matter again.

As I say it is a matter of extreme importance. However, under the circumstances I feel the final words in subsection (5) of Standing Order 26 would make it impossible for the Chair to give the hon. member the right to proceed at this time.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY—PROPOSED VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER—SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime

Oral Questions

Minister with regard to his visit to Brussels and the Europe Economic Community. I wish to ask him whether there is any change to be proposed in the relationship between Canada and the European Economic Community, and whether he will be presenting any set of specific proposals with regard to the trading and commercial relationships between Canada and the community.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it is known that the Canadian government has made proposals to the community. They are in the form of an aide-memoire, a proposed type of trade agreement between the community and Canada. Discussions have been going on for many months now. I believe the proposal was made earlier in the year, in February if my memory is correct or perhaps even before that, discussions were proceeding.

The present attitude of the government is to try to keep in balance our desire to enter into relations with the community as a whole but also to keep advancing our bilateral relations with various member countries of the community.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the Prime Minister while he is in Brussels to discuss with the European Economic Community and its representatives any methods of aiding the developing countries in their present crisis which was underlined by the head of the World Bank, for example? Does the Prime Minister intend to take up with the European Economic Community any common approach to this problem that is creating such a crisis in the world?

Mr. Trudeau: In my bilateral discussions which I will have, and already have had, with the heads of state this is always a subject matter which I insist upon being on the agenda. I have not yet seen the final agenda with the community itself. I would think it most likely that since I would be discussing it bilaterally that I would also discuss this matter with the community itself.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister making specific proposals or simply having a discussion about this subject?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the specific proposals vary with the subjects. There is of course, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, going forward under the Group of Twenty, headed by the Canadian Minister of Finance, an attempt to work out some mechanism of recycling of funds which are accumulated as a result of the petroleum crisis. We are looking at possible proposals in the area of food which might be made at the World Food Conference. There is no specific proposal that I can put before the House at this time.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY—PURPOSE OF VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. He will learn when he gets to Brussels that any chances that Canada once may have had for obtaining special consideration from the European Economic Community have been