

Wheat

is required by standing order 31. If the hon. gentleman wishes to enlighten me further, I shall be glad to hear from him.

Mr. Coldwell: The urgency, Mr. Speaker, is not the appointment of the committee but the announcement made by the United States this week with regard to the selling of subsidized wheat on the world market, something which is of extremely serious concern to Canada and particularly to the wheat growers of Canada. That is why I think there is urgency about it. If the house permits me to develop it, I will show that there is urgency.

Mr. Fulton: The committee has not been established yet.

Mr. Speaker: In view of what the hon. gentleman has said, I do not wish to deal further with the matter of urgency. I will simply ask the house if the hon. gentleman has leave to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 31. Has the hon. gentleman leave to move the adjournment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: No. "If objection is taken, the Speaker," and I quote standing order 31, "requests those members who support the motion to rise in their places". Will the hon. gentlemen supporting the motion rise in their places? There are more than 20; therefore I will call upon the hon. member who has asked for leave to take the floor.

Mr. Coldwell: May I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the house. I think that as I proceed with my remarks I shall be able to show that it is a matter of considerable urgency. Those who have been following this situation will recollect that the United States announced that non-international wheat agreement exports of wheat would be subsidized by the United States, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, on November 19. On December 7—that is last Monday—the actual policy was made public and it went into effect on December 8, last Tuesday.

First of all I want to quote what I believe to be a cogent interpretation of the policy by someone with whom I frequently disagree on these matters but who, when he was in the press gallery, made a study of such questions. I refer to Mr. Grant Dexter of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. He said this on December 8:

In the past, the United States government, while empowered to subsidize all exports of wheat, in practice has subsidized only exports under the international wheat agreement. As all exporter

[Mr. Speaker.]

members of I.W.A. have quotas allocated to them, there has been, in fact, no price competition as between the exporting nations under this agreement.

Indeed the class II wheat which was sold outside the agreement until very recently has fetched a higher price than that under the wheat agreement.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The hon. member is not going to read an article by Grant Dexter, is he?

Mr. Coldwell: The so-called world price—and I use the word "so-called" advisedly—was continually rather higher than the international wheat agreement price and therefore there was no competition.

The new announcement states that the United States department of agriculture has instructed the Commodity Credit Corporation to subsidize non-international wheat agreement exports exactly as the international wheat agreement exports have hitherto been subsidized. The United States new policy of subsidization will operate right across the board for all wheat. So far, of course, no headlong, indiscriminate dumping is contemplated, I believe. I again quote from Mr. Dexter's article:

But unless the Canadian and United States governments reach an understanding, there will be hereafter general as distinct from restricted competition. As non-I.W.A. exports are to be subsidized only to the level of the I.W.A. price it is assumed that the downward thrust would be arrested at the I.W.A. floor price which is \$1.55 per bushel basis Fort William.

Again I was quoting from the same article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of December 8.

Mr. Harkness: Could I have that last statement again, that it would be arrested—?

Mr. Coldwell: Yes.

Mr. Harkness: Competition would be arrested?

Mr. Coldwell: Yes, at the point of \$1.55. That is Mr. Dexter's statement, not mine.

The new United States policy—and it is a new policy—seems to me to be related to two facts.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): May I ask my hon. friend if he has moved the adjournment of the house to discuss an article on wheat appearing in the *Winnipeg Free Press*?

Mr. Coldwell: No. I think the hon. gentleman will realize in a few moments that I have something much more important to discuss—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I hope so.

Mr. Coldwell:—than the *Winnipeg Free Press* article, important though an article of