

Adjournment of the House

willing to set an example showing to the Canadian people that, when things are deadlocked, it is always better to negotiate than to attack.

[*English*]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the first thing I should do is to welcome the change of heart on the part of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Hees: There he goes again.

Mr. McGrath: That is not the way to do it.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I appreciate his statement that he is available for consultation. I would have appreciated some consultation in advance in connection with his intention to move this motion, but I make nothing of that.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have been here all the time for the past three weeks.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. member was presumably available this morning and could have consulted me about the motion. However, I make nothing of that. I note that the hon. member is accepting the description of his and other opposition members' participation in the debate as a filibuster, that it has been a useless and pointless exercise. This is an acknowledgement on their part.

I would be very glad to hear from the hon. member. I have been sitting with him in the committee since Christmas. He has taken a certain position that I respect and for which he has held out, and he knows what my position has been. But I would be delighted to close the gap if we could and therefore would be quite prepared to meet with him. I notice the house leader for the Official Opposition is not here, but I would be prepared to meet an appropriate representative of that group, and also of the Ralliement Cr ditistes, with the hon. member. On the whole I think this will probably be a useful initiative. It will not serve any useful purpose if we continue hearing speakers from the other side in this regard. We will therefore accept the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre) agreed to.

[Mr. Fortin.]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

TABLING OF PRICE SCHEDULE FOR SPECIFIED DAYS, MARCH AND JULY, 1969

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, under Standing Order 41(2), copies in English and French of the Canadian Wheat Board wheat price schedule for specified days in March and July, 1969, as promised.

ORAL QUESTIONS**AGRICULTURE**

REPRESENTATIONS BY CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE RESPECTING ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN FARMERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he or his colleagues have located the telegram dated July 15 which was sent by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture? If so, what response has the government made to the urgent representations made in that telegram? At the same time, can the minister say whether his attention has been drawn to a public statement by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, dated yesterday, in which it is presumed that the federation's proposals of May 28 have been rejected because no response has been made? Does the minister agree with that interpretation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the whole subject of agricultural policy is, needless to say, under very active consideration by the government. The problem, as the hon. member knows, is extremely complex, and I have no apology to make for saying that the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the position of the government of Canada that it has a moral obligation to see that farmers receive the equivalent of the floor price they would have received under the International Grains Arrangement? It is my understanding that the government subscribed to that agreement.

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. That was an international agreement that we supported very strongly. We had every hope and reason to hope it would work satisfactorily. Of course, if other countries are not complying with the agreement and we have to meet competition, I do not think it would be