

*Assistance to Western Farmers*

placed question No. 57 on the order paper. It reads in part:

How many Liberal Members of the last parliament and Liberal candidates in the last election have been appointed to positions in government, civil service,—

and so on. Forty days is a long while to wait for an answer. I know there are a great number who have been appointed.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Surely in this computer age this government could tabulate the number, without making us wait for this length of time.

**AGRICULTURE****ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN FARMERS—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26**

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by my hon. friend from Battleford-Kindersley, to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 26 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious situation facing western farmers as a result of restricted grain sales and unfavourable harvest conditions, which have led to there being large quantities of tough and damp grain and to serious deterioration of crops still out in the field. This situation gives rise to a need for immediate discussion in the House of Commons so that hon. members may present the fact and the government may tell parliament and the country of any steps it proposes to take to deal with this serious situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would the hon. member kindly address the house and the Chair in relation to the urgency of debate. The hon. member knows that discussion at this point should be limited exclusively to the question of the urgency of debate rather than to the urgency of the situation about which he complains.

**Mr. Gleave:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe this matter is urgent. Questions have been asked repeatedly in the house over the last short while in an attempt to find out what action is being taken by the government with regard to the situation which has developed and is developing in western Canada. Weather reports indicate that this situation is not improving. In fact it is getting worse, and this will affect not only the area in which it is occurring but the whole economy of Canada.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

The effect of these adverse weather conditions has been compounded by the slowdown in grain sales, which has limited the amount of cash going into the hands of farmers in the area. These two factors are building up to a situation which will have disastrous consequences, first for the people of the region, and second for the economy as a whole.

**Mr. Speaker:** I appreciate the arguments advanced by the hon. member in connection with the urgency of debate. I doubt whether there is any point in pursuing the matter further. It seems to me that citation 100, paragraph 4 of Beauchesne's fourth edition is pretty well to the point in the special circumstances here, and I ask leave of the house to read it.

A motion to adjourn the house under standing order 26, for the purpose of discussing—

And this is a particular case to which the learned author refers in this instance

—"the serious situation in which the farmers of Manitoba are at the present time, on account of lack of feed for cattle and seed grain and no satisfactory result can be obtained from the government for relief", was ruled out of order because the subject matter thereof could be discussed either on the motion for the house to go into committee of supply or on a certain bill then on the order paper in respect to unemployment and farm relief.

● (2:50 p.m.)

I also refer to citation 100(8) which suggests that the matter should be one of a sudden urgency. From the questions which have been asked by the hon. member and a number of other colleagues in the house during the last few weeks I gather that this is not particularly or especially a sudden emergency but rather a very serious situation which has been continuing for a while, and because of this I doubt if there should be an adjournment of our debates at the present time.

I see that the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Muir) appears to want to contribute to the discussion and I would not want to be placed in the position where he would wish to discuss the matter after I had made a ruling. If he feels that he should add a few words at this point I think he might be allowed to do so before I make a ruling.

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the hon. member who has just spoken in referring to the emergency of the situation. Although it is true that this has been building up over a number of weeks the crisis has reached the point where there is no possibility, or very little possibility, of the