

for the purpose of considering the subject matter of his proposed motion.

As hon. members know, there appears on today's order paper notice of a motion in the name of the hon. member for Champlain which would come up for consideration this afternoon under the terms of Standing Order 58. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar is proposing that his own motion be given priority over the supply proceedings proposed under Standing Order 58. The Chair has serious reservations about this suggested course of action.

I would be very reluctant, except perhaps in the most extreme circumstances and when there is no early opportunity for debate, to agree that an emergency debate under Standing Order 26 take precedence over a motion proposed for consideration under Standing Order 58. In this instance, the Chair must take into account that not only this day but also Thursday and Friday of this week and Monday and Tuesday of next week have been designated as supply days. In the circumstances, I must conclude that the motion of which the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar has given notice should not be put at this time.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### AGRICULTURE

#### SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—EFFECT ON MARKETS AND PRICES

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continued chaos and confusion in cattle markets all across Canada as a result of the seven cent subsidy announcement last Friday, and in view of a \$4 to \$5 drop in market prices since this announcement, leading to a loss in inventory value of an estimated half a billion dollars to Canada's 13 million head cattle industry, in spite of the minister's operational procedures issued last night, will the minister now indicate what steps the government intends to pursue to restore some confidence and stability to the Canadian cattle industry?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, it may be coincidental but there is a downward trend in the United States cattle market and that has affected the cattle market here.

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

**Mr. Whelan:** To say that this is not the proper time to put this program into force or to say whether it is really going to work—it is much too early to say it has caused all this confusion that some members are trying to indicate.

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

**Mr. Whelan:** Come on! As far as I am concerned, they are the ones who are adding confusion by some of the statements they are making.

### Oral Questions

● (1420)

**Mr. Hargrave:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the uncertainty that still exists in cattle markets, especially the Toronto market, in spite of the instructions in point No. 2 of his special procedural announcement last night, is the minister aware that on this morning's market in Toronto the procedure being followed does not include the seven cent subsidy in the bid or market price established by the trade?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I am informed that, while there are a few nonconformists in the Toronto market, the majority of the major buyers are purchasing on bid prices plus the seven cents. Bidding is continuing as normal but accountants add seven cents per pound to the producer.

#### SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—REIMBURSEMENT OF PROCESSORS FOR AMOUNTS PAID

**Mr. Dan Hollands (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. As the regulations released yesterday regarding the beef subsidy say nothing of when the processor will be reimbursed out of the fund for payments made, will the minister inform the House and the country when he is going to make an announcement?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the processor knows very well that he will be reimbursed for the amount he pays to the producer. He will have to prove that he actually paid that amount to the producer. Our accountants will be checking his books. They will be checking vouchers with the people who sold the cattle. There will be no way that they can be compensated by the government without proving definitely that they paid the producer that amount for the product, which would include the government premium.

**Mr. Hollands:** Who is going to pay the interest on this amount of money? Will the processors be reimbursed before six months have passed?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, these payments will be made within one week from the time of delivery. They are going to be made that quickly.

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

#### SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—REQUEST FOR DIRECT PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM—DURATION OF SUBSIDY

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the minister. As the declines in the market that have taken place since the minister's announcement last week have wiped out over half the seven cent subsidy per pound which the minister offered producers, is the minister prepared to look at a direct price support program which will assure to the producer the money which the taxpayer of Canada is going to put up under the program the minister is advocating?