

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notices of motions Nos. 230 and 231.

COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LICENCE OF NORTHGATE CABLE COMPANY

Motion No. 230—**Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain):**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the transcript of the public hearing of application for licence of the Northgate Cable Company to be incorporated, February 10, 1970, file No. 6404254.

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member has been provided with a copy of the document requested I would therefore ask him to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have indeed received the document. I thank the parliamentary secretary and withdraw my motion.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is dropped.

NORTHGATE CABLE COMPANY—APPLICATION TO CRTC

Motion No. 231—**Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain):**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the Northgate Cable Company's application to CRTC.

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member has been provided with a copy of the document requested, I would therefore ask him to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I did receive it, and I withdraw my motion.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is dropped.

Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FOOD PRICES

BREAD—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SUBSIDY WILL PREVENT FURTHER INCREASE IN PRICE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask some questions arising out of the Prime Minister's remarks yesterday relating to the position of Canadians in need. The first relates to the price of bread, the cost of a 24 ounce loaf having gone up six cents today. In view of the fact that spokesmen for the

Oral Questions

industry have said that the government's increased subsidy of \$1.25 per bushel would not prevent a further increase of six cents on a 24 ounce loaf of bread in the next month, and have categorized the increased subsidy as throwing a stone at an elephant, I would like to ask the Prime Minister how the government intends to back up the assurance that he gave yesterday that the announced increase in subsidy will prevent a further increase of five cents a loaf which would otherwise be inevitable in October?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang:—the Leader of the Opposition has referred to the increase of 25 cents in the consumer subsidy, and of course he is quite right in saying that this, by itself, cannot have the effect of stopping a further increase in the price of bread. Just as the reduction of four cents some little time ago was minimal influence in the price of bread, so the 25 cents would in terms of real cost only mean a reduction of about half a cent on the price of a loaf of bread. However, accompanying this has been action on our part in arranging a long-term agreement in relation to the price of wheat in Canada which will be lower than the present world price and will be effectively equivalent to price levels on August 1, both for spring wheats and Durum. People associated with the baking industry have indicated that these two courses of action together should obviate the need for further increases in the price of bread for some number of months.

● (1420)

BREAD—ASSURANCE TO PRIME MINISTER BY INDUSTRY AT THE TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT PRICE WOULD NOT BE INCREASED

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question and I ask it because of the comment made by the spokesman for the industry today. Did the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the Wheat Board, have any assurance from the industry that the price of bread would not be increased further in October when the Prime Minister made that statement in the House yesterday?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we had discussions with representatives of the industry who gave us a clear indication that the six cent increase that has just taken place had included not only the amount necessary to cover the increase in the cost of wheat from \$1.95½ to approximately \$3.25 but that it covered all the additional costs in line with their ordinary increases. They also indicated that if the price of wheat were stabilized there ought not to be a further increase in the price of bread for six months or a year. I would count on the Prices Review Board to ensure that this is so.