

Wheat

Bill No. 71, for the relief of Shirley Mary Davis Robertson.—Mr. Weir.

Bill No. 72, for the relief of Carlo Castelli.—Mr. Weir.

Bill No. 73, for the relief of Eveline Shaheen Sauvageau.—Mr. Weir.

Bill No. 74, for the relief of George William Swinwood.—Mr. Weir.

Bill No. 75, for the relief of Marguerite Frances Wiggins MacKay.—Mr. Weir.

ONTARIO-MANITOBA BOUNDARY ACT

DEFINITION OF PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 79 (from the Senate), respecting the boundary between the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

WHEAT

UNITED STATES SUBSIDY ON EXPORTS—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 31

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue), to move the adjournment of the house under standing order No. 31, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the need for an immediate meeting of the Canada-United States joint economic and trade committee, the establishment of which was announced at the time of President Eisenhower's recent visit to this country, for the purpose of taking immediate action to avoid the trade crisis which now threatens the economy of this country as a result of this week's announcement from Washington that the United States government is now subsidizing its exports of wheat sold outside the international wheat agreement, in violation of article XVI of the general agreement on tariffs and trade.

The subject matter, Mr. Speaker, is so pressing that the public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention and I therefore ask leave to move the adjournment of the house to discuss it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has asked leave to move adjournment of the house under standing order No. 31. He has introduced his motion at the proper time in accordance with the first paragraph of standing order No. 31, and he has also complied with the requirements of the second section of the same standing order.

He has handed to me a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed. I

wish to quote from the third paragraph of standing order No. 31 to the effect that the Speaker when he thinks it in order and of urgent public importance reads it out and asks whether the member have leave of the house.

It is my task to give my opinion as to whether this matter which has been brought up by the hon. member is in order. I think it is. But is it of urgent public importance? Now, it has to do with:

... the need for an immediate meeting of the Canada-United States joint economic and trade committee, the establishment of which was announced at the time of President Eisenhower's recent visit to this country, for the purpose of taking immediate action to avoid the trade crisis which now threatens the economy of this country. . .

I must ask myself first of all whether this proposal, if we are going to debate it today, would be one that would bring about the results that are contemplated in the motion to adjourn, and if there is urgency of debate. The hon. member has it in mind to adjourn the house to discuss a matter of public importance. When he tells us what it is, he claims there is the need for a meeting of a committee established recently.

Mr. Coldwell: A meeting?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The hon. gentleman wishes to have a meeting of this committee which was announced by the President of the United States when he was here recently. This is a committee which, so far as I think this house is aware—

Mr. Coldwell: A joint committee.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but there is no official information before this house that this committee does exist, except the announcement of its existence by the President. It is not that we want to doubt the word of the President of the United States. My difficulty at the moment is this. How can I consider how urgent and important it is to have a discussion of the need for having a committee meet, on a mere announcement of its creation a few weeks ago, if not more?

Mr. Coldwell: That is not the point.

Mr. Speaker: That is the beginning of the point. Perhaps someone else in the house could provide me with some assistance as to the existence of that committee.

An hon. Member: Is there such a board?

Mr. Speaker: Is there such a board? If there is, is it contemplated that it will deal with these very matters that the hon. gentleman has referred to. In my judgment it is extremely doubtful that this question presents the kind of urgency of debate which