

Petitions
AID TO CATTLEMEN

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Agriculture explain how it is that a week after the Saskatchewan Government announced a \$60 per head disaster payment with respect to cattle the federal Government made an announcement with respect to \$30 per head? Will the Minister explain why cattlemen will receive only \$60 per head instead of the \$90 per head which the two Governments promised?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Member is a resident of the Province of Saskatchewan I think he must recognize the fact that it was a decision—one which I respect—taken by a democratically-elected legislature to announce a program. Of course our difficulty was the fact that we were dealing not only with Saskatchewan but with Alberta, parts of Manitoba, and two different areas of British Columbia. We wanted the time in order that the committee which we have established can go about its work and carry out the consultations which are always required if sensible and effective representations are to be brought about.

* * *

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION
MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Last week he announced he was placing a moratorium on the foreclosures of farms by the Farm Credit Corporation which are running at approximately 14 per week. We have learned today that the American dollar will be devalued which will further depress commodity prices. Would the Minister tell the House when he is going to bring in assistance to farmers in order to arrest the situation of foreclosures on farms? Introducing a moratorium does not really help the farmers. I wonder if the Minister could make that clear.

● (1500)

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has posed that question before. It is almost becoming his weekly question. I would again invite the Hon. Member to reflect and to read the record. He will see that we have made a greater contribution to the agri-food industry in the last eight months than his Government did in all of eight years.

* * *

CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Friday, September 20, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

POINTS OF ORDER

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENTS BY MINISTER—RULING
OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: On Friday, September 20, 1985, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) on a point of order requested that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) be asked to table documents he used in answer to a question from the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly). I undertook to reserve my ruling until after I had read the "blues". I am now ready to rule.

I fully appreciate the validity of the quotation put forward by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) in making his point, namely, that:

A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a dispatch or other state paper not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay it upon the Table.

This is, of course, taken from Citation 327(1) of Beauchesne. I do not believe I need to dwell on reminding the Hon. Member of Citation 327(3) of Beauchesne's which states:

A public document referred to but not cited or quoted by a Minister need not be tabled.

Upon a close reading of *Hansard* I could find no evidence that the Minister had in fact either read from or quoted any document. Therefore, I do not find that he is obligated to table anything at this time.

REQUEST TO TABLE A DOCUMENT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave of the House to table a document as requested by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) last Friday entitled Canada-U.S. New Bilateral Trade Initiative Communication Strategy? It was a request by the Prime Minister. I am quite happy to comply.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Hon. Member knows full well the rule of the House in Beauchesne which prevents him from tabling a document under any circumstances.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benjamin: Append it to *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I phrased what I just said very carefully because I think the Whip of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition knows that unanimous consent does not apply in this case.