

from it. None the less, I feel that on the basis of the authorities to which reference has been made this is a matter where a decision by yourself could not be regarded as a precedent. I had no idea this matter was to be raised by my hon. friend until this afternoon. I mentioned this last evening in my opening remarks. I did so because of the vast changes in this act—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: If I may conclude, during the discussion last night I asked whether or not—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not want to appeal against your ruling. I want to point out this—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With the greatest deference to the Leader of the Opposition, may I say that the Chair is in a position where it is difficult to admit that there could be a debate on the ruling which has been made. I appreciate that it will not help very much if there is an appeal from the ruling, as far as time is concerned. On the other hand, the right hon. gentleman will be the first one to realize that we have to go on the basis that the ruling, as I said, right or wrong, has been rendered, and I would not think much could be achieved by reopening this ruling. I am sure that the important and interesting point which has been raised, and which was also raised on another bill this morning, can be raised on bills that will come before the house on future occasions, and perhaps in the meantime the legal officers of the crown will have an opportunity to study the interesting point raised by the hon. member for Rosthern. But in view of the normal procedure of the house I would feel that a ruling having been rendered, I should ask the co-operation of the hon. gentleman to consider the matter closed. I would therefore ask if it is the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion, the motion being for third reading.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I just rise because I was called during the discussion of the bill in the committee stage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion? Carried. When shall the said bill—

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak for a moment or two on the principle of the bill. I simply want to say that I am pleased that the government listened to the representations of members and amended the bill so as to include incorporated local authorities in the principle of the bill with respect to municipalities. This will be received

with great pleasure by a lot of small communities which can benefit from this legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Sharp (for Mr. Gordon) moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, may I have consent to revert to motions to make a statement that I promised earlier in the day?

Mr. Churchill: How long is the statement going to be? The supper hour is reduced now to 55 minutes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, we have been submitting continually today to making compromises. I tried to raise a matter a moment ago and I have no further argument about that. However, the rules are the rules and it is now after six o'clock. There is no reason why we should agree to compromise when the same attitude is not being shown to us.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this is a very important statement but if the house does not wish to receive it at this time it may later.

Mr. Diefenbaker: At seven o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 7 p.m.

TRADE

WHEAT—ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALES TO RED CHINA

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the house that the Canadian wheat board has made an announcement today regarding a new long term wheat agreement with the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation. This agreement is similar in form, although not in every respect of course, to the agreement signed on April 22, 1961, between the wheat board and the Chinese corporation. Under the agreement, the Chinese corporation has declared its intention to purchase from Canada three to five million long tons, that is approximately 112 to 186.7 million bushels of wheat over a three year period, August 1, 1963 to July, 1966. The Canadian wheat