

one of sudden occurrence. The purpose of the Standing Order as now drafted is to give the Chair ample opportunity to reflect on all aspects of the matter and to use its best judgment in deciding whether there should be an adjournment of the House under the terms of Standing Order 26. I appreciate the importance of the matter. I realize it is the kind of situation which ought to be considered by the House in due course. The only suggestion I am making at this time is that it would not be proper for such a debate to take place under the terms of Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES IN LIGHT OF SUPREME COURT RULING—FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether, following the decision of the Supreme Court yesterday in the Manitoba case, it is now his intention to confer with provincial governments so as to determine the most appropriate manner in which to promote the regulation of interprovincial trade? I am thinking particularly of those provinces which have expressed some reservations about Bill C-176.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I have not had discussions with all the provincial Ministers of Agriculture but I have with some of them. Of course, they are apprehensive about what the situation may be. I have also had a long discussion with the legal officers of my department as well as the Department of Justice who advise me that the provisions of Bill C-176 do provide for the hiatus or void which has been created as a result of the decision by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not at all.

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL TO SUPREME COURT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture in view of his remarks and assertions. Is the minister prepared, perhaps after consultation with the Minister of Justice, to send Bill C-176 to the Supreme Court of Canada by way of reference or stated case to determine its constitutionality and bring an end to the unconstitutional marketing confusion in Canada?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there is no confusion in my mind that the federal legislative authority has competence to deal with the matters that are in Bill C-176.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Horner: Are cattle in or out?

Mr. Woolliams: Your credibility has gone.

Mr. Bell: What credibility?

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL POWERS TO PROVINCIAL MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of certain reports I should like to ask the minister whether he is prepared to delegate further powers to provincial marketing boards under the existing Agricultural Products Marketing Act?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have received a request from some provincial ministers respecting this very point and it is under consideration.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister yesterday whether he would make a statement on this important issue before the House rose. Will he give an undertaking to indicate to the House what additional powers are being contemplated and the manner in which they will affect this trade?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I hope there will be an opportunity later today when we can discuss many aspects of marketing, including Bill C-176.

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF SUPREME COURT RULING

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Is the government prepared to enforce the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada in all parts of the country, including the province of Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the federal government will enforce the law of Canada. Of course the law we want to pass in this regard has been blockaded by the opposition and therefore it is very difficult to enforce it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Mismanagement!

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River rises on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, as far as I know the carriage of government business still lies within the jurisdiction of the government and it is a fact that the government has not seen fit to bring this bill forward for some weeks past. Therefore the responsibility lies at their doorstep.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Témiscamingue wish to ask a supplementary on that subject?