

*Consumer Credit and Cost of Living*

of months to receive the money that is coming to them in any case, that it really is not fair, that they be required to carry the interest charges on the money they must borrow in order to carry on their operations with their fixed costs and so on.

In view of the fact that the final payments are at a record level on a per unit basis I would urge the minister to give serious thought to increasing the initial payment to a significant extent.

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I join with other hon. members who have spoken in welcoming this announcement. At the moment, according to Canadian Wheat Board selling prices even since the end of the selling year 1965-66, there are indications which would lead us to believe that the final payments for 1966-67 will be even higher than the payments indicated in this report. The minister has pointed out this is the largest payment ever made. I think it is the largest final payment ever made on wheat. It is almost certain that a year from now we will have another report which will indicate that the total price for this year's crop will be higher than in respect of last year's crop.

This indeed is welcome news, although we do recognize the point brought up by the hon. member for Rosthern that the costs involved in producing this grain have increased at least as rapidly as the price itself. One other point I am very gratified to see in this statement is that the minister included the fact that this is not a final payment by the government of Canada. This \$311 million does not constitute a charge on the public treasury. No part of it constitutes a charge on the federal treasury. I believe this is one of the first occasions on which this kind of emphasis has been placed on this fact. I should like to commend the minister for doing this, and I recommend that he include it in all statements which are made in respect of these final payments on wheat, oats and barley.

**CONSUMER CREDIT AND COST  
OF LIVING**

CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF SPECIAL  
JOINT COMMITTEE

**Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard)** moved:

That the third report of the special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on consumer credit and cost of living, presented to the house on Tuesday, December 20, 1966, be concurred in.

[Mr. Schreyer.]

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I only wish to comment briefly on this motion. The special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons on consumer credit and cost of living is submitting to us today a quite detailed report and is asking us to concur therein. But something happened within that committee that should not go unnoticed, and since there is no mention of it in the report, I feel the house should look into the matter.

When the Consumers' Association appeared before the committee, its president, I believe, brought a rather serious accusation against the government with regard to its inaction, stating that if—

[English]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder whether the hon. member for Lapointe realizes that the motion before the house relates to the third report and not to the fourth report of this committee. The details to which he is referring are contained not in the third report but in the fourth report.

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, this concerns the report presented on December 20, which contains a large number of recommendations.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles:** The hon. member is still speaking about the fourth report, even though the third and fourth reports were both presented on December 20.

• (2:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, I want to take advantage of this opportunity and I think I have the right to do so. Whether the third or fourth report is involved, we are refused, possibly under—

**Mr. Boulanger:** That is incompetence.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is well taken. The hon. member may not, during a discussion on the tabling of a report in the house or on a motion for concurrence in a report by the house, give consideration to the proceedings of the report in which concurrence is being sought. The point he wishes to