

Oral Questions

That this House immediately proceed to constitute a special committee, composed of proportional representation of all parties in this House, to investigate and formulate a national energy policy for Canada, with instructions to develop specific energy proposals.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion is proposed to the House under the terms of Standing Order 43 and requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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AGRICULTURE**SOYBEAN SUPPLIES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS
CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 and in light of information I have just received that the recently announced embargo on the export of soybeans from the United States to Canada may force mills in Saskatchewan to cease operation within one or two weeks, which would throw the entire poultry industry into jeopardy, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight):

That the House urge the Minister of Agriculture to immediately contact the American officials asking them to honour existing commitments made to Canadian mills and to negotiate with them an agreement that will ensure a continuation of adequate soybean supplies for Canadian mills.

Mr. Speaker: This motion also requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FOOD PRICES**GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING PROJECTED TEN
PER CENT INCREASE THIS YEAR**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the position of the Prime Minister that the views of the Minister of Agriculture on food prices are strictly personal and do not reflect the views of the government, can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House whether the projected 10 per cent increase in food prices is acceptable to the government and, if not, is the government going to take action to avert such an increase in food prices this year?

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is in the House. There is no Acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Nowlan: Is there a Prime Minister?

Mr. Bell: He is an actor.

An hon. Member: He is a comedian.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I direct this most serious question to the Prime Minister who is now in his seat. In light of the position of the Prime Minister that the views of the Minister of Agriculture on food prices are strictly personal and not those of the government, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the projected 10 per cent increase in food prices is acceptable to the government and, if not, is the government going to take action to avert a further increase in food prices this year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the preamble to the question I must correct the hon. member. When the Minister of Agriculture states questions of policy he is, of course, talking on behalf of the government but when he states matters of opinion he is not.

Mr. Baldwin: Trudeau on the constitution!

Mr. Trudeau: I think the hon. member is referring to an answer I gave the House some time ago relating to a particular statement by the Minister of Agriculture. If the hon. member looks it up he will see that is what happened.

Mr. McGrath: In view of the fact that in the first five months of this year food prices have increased by almost 7 per cent, may I ask the Prime Minister if the government's present position on food prices is based on the assumption that food prices will begin to slacken off and, if not, has the government prepared direct measures and has it decided to use those measures if the present rate of food price increases continues?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we have set up the Food Prices Review Board and will be expecting its interim and other reports to decide if any recommendations arise from that source.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask the Prime Minister if he proposes to instruct the Minister of Agriculture that when the minister speaks in future he speaks as a minister of the government and presumably must reflect the views of the government?

**GOVERNMENT POSITION ON COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING PROVISION OF PROPER
FOOD FOR PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the forecast of the minister who is charged with the matter of food and the production of food, and in view of the fact thousands of people are not now able, with today's prices, to get the food they need for good nutrition, is the government prepared to put into effect now recommendation No. 6 of the Food Prices Com-