

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REQUEST GOVERNMENT DEFER DECISION ON UNILATERAL
PATRIATION

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to move a motion of the utmost importance for all Canadians, and I shall speak on behalf of millions of Quebeckers.

Considering the final decision of the present government to patriate unilaterally the constitution and the unanimous opposition in the National Assembly of Quebec, including the leader of the Liberal party of Quebec, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp):

That the House unanimously invite the Prime Minister of Canada to postpone his objective and to resume immediately the negotiations on this subject, as requested by several provincial premiers.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Under Standing Order 43, such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

[English]

GRAIN

MARKETING OF FEED GRAINS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Whereas every tonne of western barley shipped east to the eastern feed market is costing western shippers up to \$40 per tonne or the premium available on the export market, whereas the Canadian Wheat Board is forced to sell feed grains at a price below the open market price and such grains can then be redelivered and sold back to the Wheat Board at a much higher price, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse):

That this House condemns this bizarre approach to recycling and calls upon the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board to ensure that all feed grains are marketed by the board notwithstanding the opposition of the Minister of Agriculture to this policy.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

REFERENCE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO JOINT COMMITTEE—
REQUEST FOR LATER REPORTING DATE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, who has acted now to gag Parliament. He knows that the present proposal regarding his committee imposes closure in advance on the committee proposals by requiring a report-back of December 9. I wonder if the Prime Minister would give us a commitment now that he will remove that odious provision of closure in advance from the committee proceedings and establish a reporting date considerably later than December 9?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, there is nothing unusual about asking a committee to report by a certain date. On the question of gagging Parliament, to use the expression of the Leader of the Opposition, I would point out to him that our House leader has proposed various alternatives to the Conservative House leader so that Parliament can have a greater chance and a longer time to express itself on this by prolonging hours in various ways.

An hon. Member: Sure.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, sure. The opposition, therefore, if it has that many more points to make, could have made them by accepting prolonged hours, a proposition which had been accepted by the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Nowlan: Forget about them.

Mr. Trudeau: They are also members of this House and have views of their own on closure, but who feel, as we do, that the official opposition has nothing constructive or destructive to say on the subject but want to use dilatory motions. The people of Canada would like us to get on with budgetary matters and talk about problems of jobs and inflation and come to the budget.

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister exceeds even his own reputation for deception with those words.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: He knows full well that his government sets the order of business and had set the date for the budget to be presented in this House, and that would have occurred. He knows full well that closure was imposed in a period when there had been more government spokesmen than there had been opposition spokesmen. He did not answer the question whether or not he was going to keep the gag on the committee that he has put on the House of Commons.