

*Oral Questions*

order. I thought it would save time and we could move on as quickly as possible if I did not make a ruling on a dispute over facts being brought before the House by way of a point of order or question of privilege. Making such a ruling takes time; that is why I moved on quickly to the hon. member for St. John's East. I think that is what hon. members would wish the Chair to do. I now recognize the hon. member for St. John's East.

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**FOOD PRICES****REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, it seems I must continue to rise, like the price of bread.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** You are pretty stale.

**Mr. McGrath:** In view of the fact that the price of bread will continue to rise, notwithstanding the statement made in the House on Tuesday by the Prime Minister, and in view of the 2.3 per cent increase in the consumer price index, I ask the Prime Minister if he is now prepared to appear before the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, in compliance with a majority vote of that committee this morning, to explain the failure of the government to cope with inflation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I apologize to the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley, who will be recognized in a moment.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated by my patience that I had a very urgent and very serious question to direct to the Prime Minister. This morning the food prices committee, by a majority vote, called on the Prime Minister to appear before the committee to explain the government's policy on inflation, and more particularly his statement to the House on Tuesday last. My question is: will the Prime Minister appear before the committee?

**Mr. Speaker:** With respect, that is hardly a point of order.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps we should forget about the question period, which does not appear to be producing very much except points of order and questions of privilege. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member says is true: a motion was passed in the committee this morning. I heard out of the hon. member's mouth that the procedure was to call the steering committee to consider the manner of inviting the Prime Minister. That is what I propose to do, and not by way of a question in this House.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley.

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**GRAIN****WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO DOMESTIC PRICE IN VIEW OF SUBSIDY BY GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister in his statement said that producers would receive a subsidy of \$1.25 a bushel for wheat consumed in Canada, will the minister confirm that regardless of the export price, producers will receive \$3.25 from the mills plus \$1.25, making a total of \$4.50 for wheat used domestically?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the long-term arrangement being envisaged involves a firm price of \$3.25 at the floor and a payment from the treasury as long as the world price is between the floor and the ceiling, to make up the difference to the producer of that amount.

**WHEAT—SUGGESTION THAT PRODUCTION COSTS BE CONTROLLED OR DOMESTIC PRICE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY**

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the government's recently announced three-pronged attack on inflation was also part of a three-pronged attack against the west, I would like to ask him—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order, please. I must remind hon. members that there are certain rules relating to the asking of questions. It seems to me that every question asked by hon. members is preceded by a preamble, an allegation or a statement. That is entirely irregular. I suggest to hon. members that they try to take this into account in asking their questions.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister whether he would clarify an important matter pertaining to the price freeze on domestically used wheat which will result in lower incomes for farmers. Is the government considering ways and means to control production costs as well and, if not, will the price for domestically used wheat be adjusted annually to reflect costs of production?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am astonished that the self-appointed spokesman for the west says that an increase in family allowances and old age pensions is an attack against the west.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!