

● (3:40 p.m.)

Hon. members referred the Chair to paragraph 3 of citation 100 of Beauchesne, fourth edition. That is a well known citation and I am in full agreement with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre when he quotes this citation and says that this is a matter of urgency and national importance. The wording, in part, is:

"Urgency"...mean "urgency of debate", when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the House do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough...

Of course, this is an entirely relative expression. The Minister of National Health and Welfare, as government house leader, says that some time soon, within a certain time, there will be an opportunity to discuss this important and obviously urgent matter. He has referred to the fact that an amendment to the budget motion is now before the house and that there are three supply motions to come before the house. I might add that one of these is to be brought forward very soon. I cannot say exactly when, unfortunately, but one motion has to be brought forward soon. There is also a third opportunity to which the minister referred.

My view would be, considering that this is the first day of the resumed session, that the best position to adopt might be to see whether some negotiations could not be entertained between the house leaders and for them to agree as to when would be the proper time, at an early date, to consider this important matter. If no such agreement is reached and if another motion were moved some time soon, the position of the Chair might be different then.

Perhaps I might read to hon. members part of paragraph 8 of citation 100 as found on page 91 of Beauchesne, fourth edition:

I do not think that, under the Standing Order... a motion on a subject of this kind, having such a very wide scope, was ever contemplated. What I think was contemplated, was an occurrence of some sudden emergency, either in home or in foreign affairs.

In their presentations hon. members have pointed to the fact that this is not a sudden emergency. It is perhaps a continuing emergency. I have some doubt, in view of this situation, whether this is the type of motion that can be and ought to be entertained under standing order 26. The citation continues:

—I do not think it was contemplated... that a question of very wide scope, which would demand legislation to deal with it in any effective manner—

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### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

Apparently that is the situation here.

—should be the subject of discussion on a motion for the adjournment of the House—

In view of these considerations I would tend to the conclusion that this motion cannot be entertained at this time but could be reconsidered by the Chair, to use the minister's words, some time soon.

### TRADE

#### WHEAT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON REPORTED PRICE DECREASE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I had intended to address my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is absent, as it concerns his responsibility to the House of Commons on behalf of the wheat board. I might have directed it to the Minister of Finance but he is also absent. I shall therefore direct my question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister explain to the house and country why wheat has dropped 22 cents per bushel since the announcement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce prior to the adjournment of the house that the price of wheat would increase by 20 cents a bushel following his report to the house on the Kennedy round of discussions?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is far too broad a question to be answered on orders of the day. I should be glad to take it as notice. There will be an opportunity very shortly to deal with the matter. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is away on official business. The Minister of Finance is attending the annual meeting of the world bank in Brazil. They will both be back in a few days. We shall have an early opportunity to discuss this important matter.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the international wheat agreement seems to have lapsed, did the Prime Minister or his government have any discussions with the United States at the ministerial level to avoid the decrease in wheat prices? Did discussions take place prior to the announcement by the United States that they were increasing the subsidy on their wheat, the effect of which would be to take our markets?

**Mr. Pearson:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce has been in Washington during the course of the last month discussing this matter.