

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Pearson:—but I would hope that we would abandon this particular question of privilege, go ahead with the inquiry and above all get back to the work of this House of Commons.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Who disrupted it?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister whether he would accept the suggestion for an all-party committee to see if we can arrive at agreement.

Mr. Pearson: The Order in Council has been passed. We think it is a good and reasonable Order in Council and we think it should be carried out.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: A fixed position.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I think the remarks the Prime Minister has just made point out the arrogance of this government in trying to force down the throats of members of the house the government's will. I think we should have an opportunity of discussing this matter. We want to hear what objections he has to the suggestions that have been made.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pearson: Perhaps we could take a supply motion tomorrow. Then we would be getting on with the business before us and my hon. friend would be allowed to discuss the matter on a supply motion to his heart's content and within the rules.

Mr. Starr: So far as I am concerned, the Prime Minister has lost the confidence of this house and any suggestion of his—

An hon. Member: Move that tomorrow.

Mr. Starr:—has no merit whatever.

Mr. Speaker: Order. According to the provisions of provisional standing order 39A, a motion to adjourn the house is deemed to have been moved at this time.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

AGRICULTURE—FEED GRAIN—CHARGING OF UNREASONABLE PRICES

Mr. E. R. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, when I asked my question of the [Mr. Pearson.]

Minister of Agriculture last Wednesday I was not satisfied with the reply. I gave notice of my intention to raise the subject after ten o'clock. Of course, between that day and today we have come through a very strange, esoteric kind of debate about the privileges of members of parliament. It seems a strange contrast now that we should be discussing as the first item of business after that debate the subject of feed grain supplies and feed grain prices in eastern Canada.

On Wednesday last the Minister of Agriculture, in reply to my question, stated he was aware of the fact certain areas in eastern Canada were suffering from a shortage of feed grain supplies. He seemed to indicate, although he did not say so directly, that he was aware of complaints about high prices being charged farmers of eastern Canada for their feed grain supplies. I have received information to the effect that in some instances farmers are being charged as high as \$6 per hundredweight for screenings. Unless my information is incorrect, this seems to be an almost incredible price to charge for this commodity.

Without going into all the details, Mr. Speaker, I should like to hear from the minister just what information his department has on feed grain supplies in eastern Canada. Is the situation as bad as the price of \$6 per hundredweight would seem to indicate? If it is, what immediate plans does the minister have in view for alleviating the situation? I know the minister said on Wednesday that the government had certain proposals under study and legislation to establish a feed agency for eastern Canada would be introduced.

This might be very effective in the long run, but what about the immediate situation? The minister's reply was not very satisfactory on that point. There is one other aspect of the matter of which the minister should be apprised. There have been offers from certain parts of western Canada to ship feed grain direct to the areas which are so short but apparently because of legal obstacles and laws and regulations having to do with the Canadian Wheat Board and the grain trade it is not possible for direct shipment to be made. Yet in some ways this would perhaps be the most expeditious way of dealing with the problem.

I would ask the minister whether it is so difficult to look into this matter with a view to waiving the legal and regulatory requirements. Surely a case can be made from time to time for waiving the requirements of the