

Wheat Prices

like Bata Shoe and Union Carbide go to those countries and produce shoes or other products which they ship back to Canada to be sold. They are priced here as though they were made by people who were paid the going rate for wages in Canada. I lived in Nigeria a few years ago and the going wage was 15 cents an hour for a worker in a Bata factory making plastic shoes. Those shoes were sent to Canada and we paid the same price we would pay had the shoes been made here in Canada. We have to do something about that. That is the kind of global approach we in this House should be taking.

I got a little off the subject, Mr. Speaker, but I am going to support this motion in the hope that it, along with Bill C-215, will go to committee where we will get the kinds of suggestions which will allow our farmers to survive. If we do not, we are going to have a lot less farmers than we have now. We have to do exactly what the Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek has suggested and give the farmers enough for their products to pay for the cost of production and leave a little bit for the farmer to live on.

Mr. Gordon Towers (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to join in the discussion on this very important problem. I congratulate the Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Wilson) on his motion today. I would also like to allay some, not all perhaps, of the fears expressed by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) when he suggests that other grains should be included in such a Bill. It has been my experience that wheat has always been more or less a price-setter. When the price of wheat improves so does the price of other grains. Therefore I think we can set aside a lot of his fears if we take action on this Bill.

It is good to see that the Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek is supported by his political friends from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan as well as his friend in the neighbouring riding of Medicine Hat. That shows the strength and support the Hon. Member has in the presentation he makes today. In view of the fact that the Government is prepared to accept this motion as presented by the Hon. Member, may I call it five o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is the following one. Mr. Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek), seconded by Mr. Towers moved:

That, pursuant to Standing Order 74(1), a committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill with the objective of providing wheat producers with higher returns from wheat sales for human consumption in the domestic market place while avoiding undue hardship to processors and consumers and other wheat users.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to call it five o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

At 4.50 p.m. the House adjourned.