

farmers together with the failure of the government to develop programs to ensure a basic income for farmers in Western Canada, such discussion being immediately necessary because no legislation will be presented on the subject and farmers must make vital decisions within the next few weeks.

Pursuant to section 6 of Standing Order 26, Mr. Speaker deferred his decision until later in the sitting as to whether the matter should properly be discussed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) for Mr. Trudeau, seconded by Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton), moved,—That, in accordance with section 19 of An Act respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, Chapter 54, Statutes of Canada, 1968-69, this House approves the appointment of Keith Spicer, Esquire, as Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada.

After debate thereon, the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to.

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill S-20, An Act respecting the labelling, sale, importation and advertising of consumer textile articles;

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) for Mr. Basford, seconded by Mr. Mackasey, moved,—That the said bill be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

After debate thereon, the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to.

Accordingly, the said bill was read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Before proceeding with the calling of Private Members' Business I wish to refer to the motion proposed by the honourable Member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) earlier today under the provisions of Standing Order 26. I begged the indulgence of honourable Members to give the Chair a further opportunity to look into the matter and to reach a decision.

I have given the motion and the subject-matter of the proposed motion much consideration since then. The doubts which I had at the time are still very much in my mind. These doubts refer particularly to the requirement of Standing Order 26, that the motion should not be granted if there is a probable opportunity for the consideration of the subject-matter of the motion by the House. At the same time I had to take into account the very serious nature of the matter raised by the honourable Member for Saskatoon-Biggar and the obvious interest of all Members of the House. I felt if I had a reasonable doubt, that should be resolved in favour of the private Member proposing the motion.

Although I still have some doubts and although I believe there may be opportunities within a reasonable time for consideration of the subject-matter, namely supply motions and, more particularly, the budget debate, in view of my doubt I resolve this in favour of the honourable Member for Saskatoon-Biggar and suggest there should be a debate on this matter when the House resumes its work at eight o'clock this evening.