

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

GRAIN

DOMESTIC FEED GRAINS POLICY

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Leave having been granted to the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) to move the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the threat to Canadian agriculture created by the United States action in licensing and controlling the export of oil seed products, and the consequent threat of higher prices to Canadian consumers for meat, poultry and dairy products, and the urgent need for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board to outline to parliament the government's proposals for its new policy on the sale and pricing of domestic feed grains.

Accordingly, the motion is as follows: the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), moves:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this opportunity, which the Chair has been good enough to grant, because I think there are matters which are urgent that this House should discuss. We have had no indication from the ministers responsible that an opportunity would be given to this House to discuss the matters raised in the motion. The first part of the motion, which deals with the matter of the United States action in licensing and controlling the export of oil seeds, and indeed the counteraction on our part to control supplies in this country, while of definite concern is not really the major concern of myself in this debate, because these circumstances will pass and we will again have bountiful crops and adequate supplies. The phenomenon of short crops in many areas of the world and shortage of oil seeds will be corrected in the natural course of events and through agricultural technology.

It is the latter part of the motion which concerns me more, namely the urgent need for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board to outline to parliament the government's proposals for its new policy on the sale and pricing of domestic feed grains. The minister on numerous occasions has been asked in the House by myself and others to outline what that policy may be and will be. In answer to our questions we have had vague replies lacking definition and failing to tell the farmers and this House what the policy of the government is.

Mr. Lang: Will be.

Mr. Gleave: Or will be. The minister said "will be". Well, this is July 16 and the minister since early in June has

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replied in this House that he will make his statement known prior to August 1. That is some two weeks hence. Even at this time the minister is failing in his responsibility to this House and to the farmers of Canada, not merely the western farmers but all farmers in Canada who are interested in the production and use of feed grains, in that he has still not made his announcement.

At this point in time we have the rather ridiculous situation in which the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), who has not bothered to show up tonight, at least to this point in time, sends a wire to all ministers of agriculture telling them he will be going to Prince Edward Island on the 24th and will discuss what the policy will be in respect of the marketing, pricing and sale of feed grains. At the same time we have another announcement by the minister in charge of the Wheat Board to the effect that he will be at the western economic opportunity conference and will be discussing with anyone there who wishes to speak to him the policy for feed grains. So at this time we have Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum tossing the policy back and forth between them and failing to put their real policy before this House.

This is one of the very important matters that will come before this House. The Canadian Wheat Board was established in 1935 by the then Conservative government. Finally in 1943 under war conditions it was given the responsibility for handling all wheat in western Canada. Since 1949, a period of 25 years, it had had the responsibility for handling all feed grains as well from western Canada.

I do not suppose a matter of such major importance has ever been handled more cavalierly by the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, if, indeed, he is in charge and if, indeed, he does know what is going on. We have been dealing in rumours. In fact the other day a telegram from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool urged the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board to lay these rumours to rest and to put the facts before the people. The "Report on Business" in the *Globe and Mail* of June 28 had this information:

● (2010)

The federal government has a plan to throw the Canadian market for domestically produced feed grains wide open on August 1, Report on Business has learned.

Did the minister and his assistants deliberately leak that? Did they want it thrown out as a flyer to see what the reaction would be? Did some reporters sneak in behind the cabinet meeting and listen to what ministers were saying? I think it is a disgraceful way to treat a matter as important as the marketing of feed grains.

The same story went on to say:

Opposition to the Wheat Board's selling policy was greatest in Quebec, and at one stage Agriculture Minister Normand Toupin set a deadline of February, 1972, for the development of a national grain marketing plan.—

As well the Premier of Quebec, the hon. Mr. Bourassa, addressing an annual meeting of the Coopérative Fédérée de Québec, said that so far as he was concerned there would have to be a new policy on feed grains.

The minister would have done a service to this House and to the farmers had he brought this matter before the