

International Grains Arrangement

The International Grains Agreement is, in effect, a dead letter. Not only has the floor price been effectively abandoned but the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), is not even confident that last week's conference has served to stave off another crisis.

Reports are that the price for top quality Canadian wheat may drop by 20 to 25 cents per bushel. Under these circumstances, given unprecedented surpluses of wheat in Canada and the critical cash shortage, the fall-off in retail sales throughout the prairies and the consequent serious threat to the prairie economy, and in view of the failure of the government to announce a policy to meet the emergency, I am sure that no hon. member will dispute that this is a case of urgent and pressing necessity as called for under Standing Order 43, and that no hon. member who is concerned would refuse unanimous consent to proceed with this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members have heard the proposed motion by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

An hon. Member: Wait until they hear about this in Winnipeg.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: How will the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) answer that one in Calgary?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): He will probably answer it very well.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

TRADE

WHEAT—LACK OF SUPPORT PRICE UNDER INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton), to move the adjournment of the house under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the collapse of

[Mr. Stanfield.]

the International Grains Arrangement in guaranteeing a minimum international price support for wheat, as announced yesterday in the house by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), the absence of any government policy for maintaining a minimum wheat price support, and the resultant unprecedented danger facing the entire western economy.

Mr. Speaker: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 26 the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) has given due notice of his request to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing the matter outlined in the motion which has just been read to the house by the hon. member. There is little doubt in the mind of the Chair that the matter raised by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar is of great concern and of the utmost importance to the country as a whole. However, the question before the Chair is one of a procedural nature that must be resolved in accordance with the intention and the provisions of Standing Order 26.

The statement made yesterday by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) and the communiqué tabled by him dealt with a matter that has been before the house for many weeks. For example at pages 6740 and 6741 of *Hansard* for March 18, 1969, a number of questions were posed to the minister dealing with compensation for the shortfall of prices under the International Grains arrangement. Again, on May 8, 1969, at pages 8467 and 8468 of *Hansard*, a number of questions were posed concerning difficulties in the international wheat market. On May 16, 1969, as reported at page 8779 of *Hansard*, the minister was again questioned concerning the adherence of Australia to the International Grains Arrangement.

The latter part of the hon. member's statement deals with "the absence of any government policy for maintaining a minimum wheat price support". It is suggested to the hon. member that the latter portion of his statement raises a question which, raised in other terms, was resolved earlier this session by decision of the House of Commons. May I refer hon. members to pages 981 to 983 of *Votes and Proceedings* for May 1, 1969, where a supply motion by the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth), seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), was proposed as follows:

That in the opinion of this house the government has failed to deal with the seriously deteriorating net income for Canadian agriculture,