

Inquiries of the Ministry

the house and the matter is urgent may I be permitted to address it to the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that the contract price for new corn in Ontario is already 25 cents a bushel lower than last year, will the right hon. gentleman undertake to have the house informed as to whether, in order to check this alarming trend, the Canadian livestock feed grain board has recommended to the government a freight subsidy on this corn which is moving into eastern markets similar to that on western grain?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question appears to the Chair to be the type of question which should be placed on the order paper. If the hon. gentleman thinks that I am wrong he might give notice that it be discussed on the adjournment proceedings, whereupon I would give it priority.

Mr. Danforth: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this is a very urgent matter. This corn is in the process of being marketed. Every day's delay means a lot of money to the farmers involved. To have the matter delayed until a later debate would just increase the pressure on this particular commodity.

[Later:]

Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister of forestry I have a question for the Prime Minister which is related to the question asked by the hon. member for Kent (Ont.) concerning the plight of the feed grain producers in southwestern Ontario.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would undertake to discuss with the minister of forestry, who answers for the Canadian livestock feed grain board, the possibility of implementing the recommendation of the standing committee on agriculture, which appears at pages 542 and 543 of the fourth report of that committee dated March 22, 1965. This recommendation suggests enlargement of the feed grain assistance policy to cover feed grain producers in Ontario whose products are destined for markets which are in eastern Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I shall be glad to discuss this matter.

[Mr. Danforth.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**PROPOSED CHANGE IN SITTING HOURS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the government house leader, the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the importance of the debate which has been called for today, will the government agree that this house should forgo the private members' hour and sit until ten o'clock tonight?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to consult with my colleagues and try to reply informally later.

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the government house leader whether he intends to call a house leaders' meeting to discuss the matter so as to prevent any kind of backlash that might eventuate if this question is not discussed through the normal channels.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I would be quite happy to discuss it with any of the house leaders.

[Later:]

Mr. MacEachen: I should like to rise on a point of order and clear up for the benefit of hon. members the question of the sitting hours for the rest of the day. I have had a word with, I think, most of the house leaders, and without asking them to take any responsibility for this suggestion I propose that we forgo private members' hour, continue with the estimates until six o'clock, and then follow the regular practice for the rest of the day.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): I listened with some interest to the minister's statement during which he indicated he had discussed this matter with most of the house leaders. I wish to state categorically that the minister did not mention it to any member of our party.

An hon. Member: What party?

Mr. Patterson: As for the matter which was discussed when he was over on this side of the house, he did sit beside me but he never mentioned the subject to which he has just referred. I object to his indication that the house leaders have been contacted with regard to this proposal. Furthermore, I should