

[English]

FARM MACHINERY**CONSIDERATION OF PRICE INCREASES BY
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture arising out of the order in council he tabled a few moments ago. May I ask him, in view of the fact that a one man commission has been set up to inquire into the prices of farm machinery and repair parts, whether this is an indication that the minister does not intend to ask that this subject matter be referred to the standing committee on agriculture, forestry and rural development of this house, so that body can continue the work it began several years ago in this regard.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the committee of course are masters of their own procedure. They can, if they wish, continue any discussion. Having reviewed what the committee has done in these past several years, it seemed to me that a more useful result, and a more beneficial one to the farm community in the long run, could be achieved by having an all pervasive inquiry conducted by a prominent agricultural economist such as Dr. Barber. It seems to me that such an inquiry into the entire subject matter by Dr. Barber is preferable, rather than having this done through the medium of the committee. I think the committee had a very difficult time, according to my reading of the reports, in coming to a conclusion.

I hope, having heard the representations of various parties and hon. members throughout the house in this regard, this proposed measure will be a more useful one in the long run.

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): A supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the appointment of a one man royal commission to investigate the price of farm machinery. This is something I advocated a long time ago, and I am very pleased—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Rapp: I want to ask this question. Is the minister in a position to say why this is only a one man royal commission, and not the usual commission with two, three or more members?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this particular question,

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whether it should be a one, two or three man commission is not so important that it should be asked at this time.

Mr. Rapp: With respect, I think it is very important.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member could place this question on the order paper.

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Agriculture, in connection with this commission, set any time limit within which we shall know the results of the commission hearings?

Mr. Greene: No, Mr. Speaker. I think we should give Dr. Barber every opportunity of going into this question in depth, as he sees fit. I do not wish to tie him down in any way, because I think all hon. members of the house would like to have the most comprehensive inquiry possible.

Mr. W. H. Jorgenson (Provencher): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister assure the house that Dr. Barber will continue his investigation for several years; because during the course of the investigation by the House of Commons committee, which lasted for several months, the price of farm machinery never rose.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would ask hon. members to limit their contributions to questions at this time.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**STILBESTROL—SUGGESTED BAN ON USE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North): I should like to direct this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since the United States food and drug administration has recently recognized stilbestrol as a cancer causing agent, would the minister give early consideration to the banning of its use in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is doubt in my mind whether this question is so urgent that it could not be placed on the order paper. I recommend that course to the hon. member.

Mr. Noble: I think this is an important issue; it affects our health and welfare, and this material is being used promiscuously in Canada now. I think the minister knows something about it.

Mr. Speaker: I hope the minister knows something about it, and trust he will be able to indicate that in a written reply.