

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 27, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CHANGES IN ITEMS ANNOUNCED

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make an announcement of a change of business for today and also for next Wednesday and Thursday. The order of business today will be as follows: government order No. 55, the Quarantine Act, will be the first item, to be followed by government order No. 71, the Parole Act, as the second item. The third and fourth items will be government order No. 43, report stage of Bill S-7, the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, and government order No. 65, with regard to televising the proceedings of the House. The opposition day will not be next Wednesday as announced but rather on Thursday of next week. The bill on the establishment of a Standards Council of Canada will not be proceeded with in the coming week.

Next Tuesday, after consultation, I will be making an announcement with regard to the business to take place on Wednesday in place of the opposition day.

Mr. Woolliams: May I speak on this matter, Mr. Speaker? Could the House leader advise us at this stage whether there has been agreement among the House leaders that the bill amending the Parole Board Act will receive all readings today?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): My understanding is that there is no agreement on that point.

THE BUDGET

TABLING OF BUDGETARY PAPERS

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies in the two official languages of the budgetary papers, and I ask for the consent of the House to have the papers printed as an appendix to

today's *Votes and Proceedings* and also included as an appendix to *Hansard* of Thursday, March 12, when I intend to present the budget.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For text of papers referred to above, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

GRAIN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR REDUCTION OF WHEAT ACREAGE

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the carryover of wheat in Canada will be approximately 950 million bushels on July 31 of this year, equivalent to nearly two years' disappearance. To reach a stock position in reasonable relationship to normal sales volumes, production of wheat must be reduced substantially below sales level. The number of years during which production need be so reduced depends upon the vigour with which the problem is attacked.

Closely related to the surplus in wheat is a current shortage of cash among western grain growers. The effects of a cash shortage are evident throughout the Prairies, but are particularly acute in Saskatchewan whose farmers are now carrying more than two-thirds of the total stocks on farms.

Unless strong action is taken now the prospect is for a heavy movement of acreage out of wheat and into coarse grains and oilseeds. The wheat producer is in a position in which he must attempt to increase his cash return. In large measure, this would lead to increased acreage in other crops. Our stock positions, particularly in oats and barley, are already high. A further increase in acreage in these crops this year would result in burdensome surplus and lower prices for these products. This would create extreme difficulties for producers whose incomes normally depend on the sales of these crops.

● (11:10 a.m.)

In oilseeds there is reason to believe that some increase can be accommodated without serious effects on prices and delivery levels