

Food Prices

May I make a further point. It would not be fair or proper for this government to say, in attacking those sources of higher costs, that we must take away the right of the worker to fight for fair wages. We have heard a great deal about wage and price controls as being the saviour and the solution to the problem that we face in connection with inflation, and especially in connection with rising food costs. Something I have not heard mentioned in the last hour or two is the working paper produced by Professor David Smith of Queen's University. I think the first report of the committee studying trends in food prices recommended that that study be carried out.

The first working paper to come from Great Britain makes something clear. It notes that various control systems established over a number of years in Great Britain, and especially in the past year, have not been successful. Actually, the increase in food prices under controls in Great Britain has been, between April, 1972 and 1973, 15.4 per cent.

An hon. Member: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Fleming: Clearly, controls are nonsense.

Mr. Reilly: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because this subject is of such pressing importance to so many millions of Canadians and as, because of procedural difficulties today, a great many members, including my colleague across the way and myself, were precluded from taking part in the debate, I would ask the unanimous consent of the House to continue until eleven o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Paproski: John Reid said no.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Hon. members have heard the suggestion of the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly). Is there unanimous consent that we continue until eleven o'clock?

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Hees: Donald Macdonald said no.

Mr. Reilly: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a second point of order. In view of the overwhelming importance of this subject to millions of Canadians, I feel justified in demanding that the government bring this matter in as a government order by the end of this week.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2200)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member knows he should not rise on a point of order to make a speech or participate in the debate. If the hon. member has a valid point of order, I invite him to put it to the Chair and the Chair will decide on its value. Otherwise, we will proceed with the normal adjournment debate.

[Mr. Fleming.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I, in my eternal quest for knowledge, ask the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader about the business for tomorrow, the day after and the day after.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a large shopping list for the day after and the day after, but tomorrow we will return to the Canada Pension Plan bill we were dealing with last Friday. If that is completed, we will proceed to the residential mortgage legislation. If that is concluded, we will then go on with the CNR financing bill.

Mr. Nielsen: What about the Parole Act?

Mr. Reid: We would also like to bring the Parole Act forward at a later point. Perhaps there could be some discussion among the House leaders as to the appropriate way and time to deal with this matter.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**ENERGY—CRUDE PETROLEUM—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING
WITH ALBERTA MINISTERS—DISCUSSION OF CONSUMERS'
SUBSIDY**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, the seven minutes allotted to me tonight arise from the following question which I directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and also a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), recorded at page 6590 of *Hansard*. My question was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources if he is meeting any ministers of the government of Alberta this week and if one of the matters that will be discussed is the question of the province of Alberta subsidizing the consumers in reference to crude petroleum as western wheat farmers have been asked to subsidize consumers in reference to bread in the whole of Canada?

The minister replied:

Mr. Speaker, I am meeting with the Alberta ministers. The hon. member's formulation will be an interesting one to put to them.

On September 14 the Leader of the Opposition asked a similar question. The minister replied:

I think it is fair to say that they made no substantive comment about it.

When speaking to the Calgary Canadian Club on September 14, and I mentioned this in the question period today, Premier Lougheed said:

We are and have been prepared to sit down at a national conference on energy in a spirit of co-operation. However, the federal government unilateral action now appears to preclude such an approach.