

*Withholding of Grain payments*MR. GLEAVE—ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENTS BY  
GOVERNMENT MEMBERS RESPECTING PAYMENTS  
UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege of which I have given notice. The question of privilege affects all members of the House. Government spokesmen are giving misleading descriptions of an issue faced by the House, namely, the refusal of the government to make statutory payments for wheat storage under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) said on television as recently as last night that the government would give the opposition one more chance to permit passage of Bill C-244, and if the opposition continued to block the bill the government would have to reconsider its position with respect to payments due under the act.

**An hon. Member:** Blackmail.

**Mr. Gleave:** The opposition has not created any impediment, by its opposition to Bill C-244, to government obedience of the law.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Gleave:** It is the government's duty to make payments as required by the act, independently of the opposition's stand on a bill that has not yet been adopted.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gleave:** Again, the government was quoted on CBC radio this morning as saying that only \$62 million in payments under the act is now due and that another \$30 million is due only on July 31, 1972. In fact, payments are made in equal, monthly instalments.

**An hon. Member:** Through the Wheat Board.

**An hon. Member:** Right. You are catching on.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** What do you know, the cat is out of the bag!

**Mr. Gleave:** In fact, payments for August and September are now overdue, in addition to payments for the whole of last year. The \$100 million provided in Bill C-244 is a one-shot payment. The Temporary Wheat Reserves Act provides for payments every year—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is now debating the issue. He should indicate his question of privilege. I suggest that the hon. member is now making a speech on the substantive issue, rather than on the procedural aspect of the matter which, of course, is the only aspect that can be of interest to the Chair.

**Mr. Gleave:** Mr. Speaker, the question of privilege is that, essentially, by these statements outside the House the government is deliberately misleading the Canadian public on what is at issue here. This, Mr. Speaker, is my question of privilege. The Temporary Wheat Reserves Act provides for payments every year in which more than 178 million bushels of wheat are in storage, and payments would amount to more than \$100 million if they were continued under that act. About \$90 million is already overdue. If Your Honour finds that I have a prima facie

[Mr. Speaker.]

case of privilege, I would be prepared to make an appropriate motion to have the matter referred to a standing committee of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar has given the required notice of his intention to raise this matter by way of a question of privilege. I, of course, do not intend to consider the matter lightly because I realize the importance of the situation and the interest of all hon. members in this very important and obviously contentious issue.

The hon. member suggests that there is a breach of parliamentary privilege, either a breach of his privileges or of those of the House, in that, to use his words, "the Canadian government by statements outside the House is misleading the public." I cannot judge whether that is so or not, but I suggest to the hon. member that this cannot possibly be the basis for the submission of a question of privilege.

I have gone into the precedents and considered the Standing Order at length yesterday when a similar motion was proposed which, I might say, was in all points similar to that proposed today by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. There is no point in restating the precedents I referred to yesterday. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate that in view of the precedents I quoted yesterday and the citations mentioned in my ruling I cannot rule today, contrary to my ruling yesterday, that there is a prima facie case of privilege.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if it would be appropriate for the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) to make those false statements in this House, where he could be dealt with properly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Mr. G. W. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 25 I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), that because of the continued refusal of the government to make the payments required under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Aiken:**—this House do now adjourn.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, If the motion is put in those terms, I suggest it is not in order. It can be put to the House in the traditional form, simply that this House do now adjourn. If the hon. member will make that motion it will be put to the House.

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary North, that this House do now adjourn.