

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Foot-and-mouth disease

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. gentleman has leave to introduce this bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT FOR FARM STORAGE

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935 (payment for farm storage).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

PROVISION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, CREED OR COLOUR

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to promote fair employment practices in Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DEALING WITH FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that adequate compensation is not provided in the present legislation for the purpose of dealing with foot-and-mouth disease, as was suggested by hon. members last Friday, I now ask the consent of the house to introduce at this time both the resolution and the legislation itself which will provide the remedy. The legislation is really a one-section act, with the usual other sections in order to make it operative. I request this consent today because it is essential that we get the whole set-up into operation as soon as possible.

We would be prepared to agree, of course, that this procedure will not prevent a full discussion of the whole matter now under consideration, either during the debate on the speech from the throne or on my estimates. In this way I suppose we might avoid two discussions; and presumably if we discussed the matter now we would be prevented

from discussing it again later this session. Therefore I would like the consent of the house to introduce the resolution, pass it through its various stages; then to have the legislation based upon it introduced immediately and passed through its different stages, so that the whole operation may be made legal at this time. I have discussed the matter with the leaders of the three opposition groups, and from what they have said I take it that they are inclined to agree.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is somewhat unusual procedure, but the request relates to a very unusual situation, and I am happy to agree that we proceed in the manner that has been suggested. My remarks, of course, do not cover the contents of the bill, but simply the request that this matter be dealt with now. In saying that my remarks do not cover the contents of the bill, naturally I am not attempting in any way to limit the discussion of its contents, which actually are not yet before hon. members. I welcome the fact that a measure which is designed to meet a very serious situation, and to restore confidence in the area affected, does come before the house so soon.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): We are very happy to give the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) the consent for which he has asked to proceed with this measure and to endeavour to get it through all its stages today. A number of questions, however, in connection with this subject have arisen in western Canada which require elucidation, and I believe there must be some discussion at this stage. Perhaps the minister when he presents the resolution would make a clear explanation of the circumstances connected with the discovery of this disease, and all the implications connected with it.

I shall be glad to facilitate the passage of this measure today, but there should be an opportunity to consider certain questions which have arisen, not only in the minds of hon. members but also in the minds of those in the part of the country affected. It would be helpful if the minister gave us a full explanation and allowed some debate; I do not think it would interfere with putting through the measure at today's sitting. I am sure we shall co-operate to that end.

Mr. Gardiner: May I suggest, then, that we have a question period at the usual time when the resolution is in committee of the whole house. I do not know that there is much that I can add to what I said on Friday, but I shall be quite free to answer any questions I can.