

Government Wheat Policy

the beginning of this session and in the chair I have heard the questions asked from day to day by hon. members on both sides of the house representing western constituencies. I have seen similar questions on the order paper.

Mr. Horner: The responsible ministers have not been here.

Mr. Speaker: A motion under standing order 26 was made earlier by another hon. member. I believe that was more than a month ago. All this indicates clearly to me—and I am looking at the question from strictly a procedural standpoint; hon. members must bear that in mind—that the matter has been under consideration, that it is not a sudden emergency as is required by the rule but is obviously a continuing emergency. I wonder whether there is a point at which a continuing emergency becomes a sudden emergency. This is a philosophical decision which I hesitate to make at this time. But when a month ago a matter was considered extremely urgent, and when every day since then it has been considered extremely urgent, I doubt that today, by reason of the fact that a motion is made, I can reach the conclusion that it has now become a sudden emergency.

On the other hand, I have to take into account that there may be opportunities for debate of this urgent matter within the next few days. I hesitate to mention, but I believe it is my duty to do so, that there is always open to the opposition the possibility of moving an amendment to a supply motion, at which time this matter could be debated at length. This is a possibility which might be considered. After the exchange between the government house leader and the opposition house leader, I hesitate to suggest that they should get together—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: —and perhaps try to arrange to set aside a supply day for a debate on this very urgent and important matter. In any event I feel bound by the standing order and by the rules and precedents inasmuch as they require that the matter brought before the house should be one of sudden emergency. This is primarily a matter of a continuing emergency. Because in my view it should be possible for the house within the next few days to arrange for that kind of debate, I would be inclined to refuse the motion. At the same time I advance the possibility that the motion might be brought forth again later if

[Mr. Speaker.]

there does not seem to be an improvement in the situation and if there does not appear to be the possibility within the next few days of a debate being provided with the agreement of hon. members from both sides of the house. Having said all this—and much of it might be not entirely relevant—I must reach the conclusion that I cannot accept the motion.

Mr. Schreyer: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. My question of privilege does not concern Your Honour's ruling but rather has to do with the statement made by the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon. He quoted or attempted to quote the chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board and I jotted down the words he quoted. The minister attributed to that gentleman the words that Canadian farmers are not generally aware of the seriousness of the problem. Either the minister did not have a chance to complete the quotation, which would be unfair, or he misquoted Mr. McNamara and should have a chance to explain.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a question of privilege. If any hon. member has a question of privilege now it would be the minister, not the hon. member for Selkirk.

Mr. Schreyer: Mr. Speaker, is the minister not going to avail himself of the opportunity to explain?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no question of privilege.

[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I ask Mr. Speaker, that all the notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[English]

GRAIN

PROVISION OF DRYING FACILITIES ON FARMS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the appropriate minister, possibly the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon. What efforts are being made by the Canadian Wheat Board or by the government itself to try to ensure that there are adequate facilities on farms to handle the 200