

Western Grain Transportation Act

ing Order 30; he was simply saying that if there were unanimous consent perhaps it would be possible to extend the hours. But it was clear that the Hon. Member knew the provisions of Standing Order 30 and specifically did not move a motion under Standing Order 30.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that I did not move any motion, nor did I intend to move any motion. I made it very clear that I sense the same kind of co-operation and spirit of good faith that I felt in committee and based on that, I simply asked for an extended sitting so that we can be as productive as we were this afternoon when we disposed of four amendments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I am not sure what is happening. I will simply indicate that I thought I heard the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary move a motion indicating a desire for extended hours. I also recognized the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). I would say that even though the Hon. Member for Yukon was speaking off the microphone, both he and I recognize that the motion by the Parliamentary Secretary had a certain fault in it, if it was a motion.

I think we are reaching a point where it may not be appropriate to continue. Apparently the Parliamentary Secretary, who made certain comments just now, indicates that he was not moving a motion. In that case, there is no motion. Would the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary like to continue his remarks in debate but not on a point of order?

Mr. Flis: Your ruling is correct. I was seeking unanimous consent of the House, not moving any motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): If the Parliamentary Secretary was seeking unanimous consent, I can only presume he was doing so on a motion.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This seems to reflect what is really wrong with our country. The Government cannot get its act together.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order. We are having some difficulty with the House of Commons, let alone the country. Perhaps the Hon. Member would come to his point of order.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I agree that the first statement was somewhat gratuitous but it was accurate. I would like to get clarification. My House Leader says that there are certain consultations going on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It is a tradition, if I may call it that, that the House pays particular attention to those Hon. Members who may represent their Party on either side of the House, such as in the moments gone by, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Evans) or the Hon. House Leader for the Official Opposition (Mr. Nielsen), as well as others.

I do not believe we should add to that. Unless certain of those Party spokesmen may wish to rise and claim the floor on

a point of order, I think I should recognize the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Flis) in debate. If I see Hon. Member who wishes to comment on a point of order with respect to his Party's position, of course I will hear that Hon. Member.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: I do not think we should complicate matters, Mr. Speaker. It is quite simple. I have been informed that the Parliamentary Secretary has merely asked unanimous consent for extending the sitting hours of the House beyond the normal time of adjournment so as to complete debate at the report stage.

I submit, with respect, that all the Chair has to do is ask whether there is unanimous consent. If there is not, that settles the matter. The Hon. Member said he did not want to move a motion.

When I came in I heard the Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) say that I had asked him to discuss agreeing, under Standing Orders 80 and 81, to time allocation for debate. That has nothing to do with sitting beyond the normal time of adjournment. If Hon. Members object, they are free to do so, but I certainly do not deny the right of the Parliamentary Secretary to ask for the unanimous consent of the House.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Nor do I wish to deny the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary that right. If he wishes to seek unanimous consent, as far as I know, the best way he can do that is by a motion. He can either use his time on his feet to debate or to seek unanimous consent. It is his choice.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, that is all that I was seeking. I was not seeking permission to extend debate. I had finished debate. I said that in conclusion I am seeking unanimous consent of the House to extend the sitting hours so that we can complete the report stage of this Bill. That is all I seek, unanimous consent to extend the sitting hours.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In that case, I hear the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary seeking unanimous consent, seconded by Mr. Burghardt.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, surely you are putting a question which must be in the form of a motion in writing. If we are going to seek consent on whatever you might have, we would like to see it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I must answer the Hon. Member for Yukon. It is the tradition of the House that a motion should be put in writing and read by the Chair. If the Hon. Member for Yukon wants that formality, I will insist upon it.

Mr. Nielsen: The Standing Orders require it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I understand that. However, normally the House proceeds day to day without the