

Then I asked:

In how many cases did the farmers receive no payment because the amount to which each was entitled was applied to the outstanding balance due by him as advanced payment?

While Your Honour has no authority to direct the government, I think it should be made perfectly clear that this House cannot operate on the basis of a desire on the part of the government to defer answering questions that it believes will be embarrassing.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I regret having to take the time of the House, but I wish to refer to question No. 88 which I placed on the order paper on February 18 last. May I point out that the same question stood on the order paper for the whole of the preceding session of parliament without being answered. I cannot imagine what the reason would be for not answering it. It is a question of great interest to those who visit parliament and our national capital. My question is a very simple one:

Is the government giving consideration to the re-opening of the scenic walk around Parliament Hill—?

I really cannot understand why the government cannot answer that question in nearly two years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I see two other hon. members who want to rise at this time. We could spend a lot of time this afternoon going over all the questions on the order paper that have not been answered to this point. However, having said that I will recognize the hon. member for Brandon-Souris who wants to rise on a point of order.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, my point of order has to do with question No. 210 which has been on the order paper since February 28. It deals with an important service in connection with the problem of the non-medical use of drugs and, with the recent resignation of Dr. Craig, it assumes some urgency. I trust the government will bring down an answer at an early date.

Mr. Ryan: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. On February 18 questions Nos. 7, 43, 45 and 46 appeared on the order paper in my name. They also appeared on the order paper during the last session from, I believe, early in November.

The first question asks for particulars about the dealings with respect to Victoria Wood Development Corporation Limited and the low-cost housing complex on CNR land in Toronto. The second asks for particulars about the foreclosure action against Rochdale College. The third asks for particulars as to the payments coming in with respect to the mortgage on Pestalozzi College. The fourth asks for particulars as to what is happening to the white elephant, Richmond Square, a CMHC housing project in Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a point of order he should raise it by way of a point of order and not by way of a speech. I think he is perhaps going a little farther than he should and is making an argument.

Mr. Ryan: I think I have made my point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mahoney: What was the point?

Motions for Papers

[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Would Your Honour be so kind as to call notices of motions Nos. 1, 14 and 16?

[English]

CORRESPONDENCE PERTAINING TO LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAIN SQUARE, TORONTO

Motion No. 1—**Mr. Ryan:**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all leases, assignments of leases, leasebacks, subleases, assignments of subleases, lending agreements, assignments of agreements, mortgages and contracts pertaining to the leasing and development of Main Square in the City of Toronto from the commencement of negotiations by developers with the CNR to the present time, that may be in the possession of or subject to the control of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. David Weatherhead (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, these various documents support, and are part of, the arrangements between borrower and lender. Such arrangements are internal administrative matters and it is not in the public interest to disclose them. Under these circumstances I wonder if the hon. member would consent to withdrawing his motion?

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, I regard these matters as being of great public interest and importance and think they should be revealed to the public. I therefore ask that this motion be transferred for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

COPY OF ALL CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO SALE OF RYERSON PRESS LTD.

Motion No. 14—**Mr. Macquarrie:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all correspondence, memoranda, etc., between the Government of Canada and the United Church of Canada and other individuals and organizations relating to the question of the sale of Ryerson Press Ltd.

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this motion is acceptable in so far as the Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce, National Defence and Secretary of State are concerned. However, for the Prime Minister's office to comply a considerable number of man-hours would have to be assigned to extract this correspondence from the files. Since these man-hours are not presently available, extra staff would have to be employed on a casual basis in order to complete the job.

Mr. Bell: What about Ivan Head? He's writing books.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jerome: Accurate statistics on the numbers of such correspondence are, however, maintained, and such information could be provided in response to a question on the order paper.