

Honourable senators, the point of order raised a few minutes ago by the honourable gentleman from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has to be ruled on before we can proceed further, and speaking to this point of order I want to say that I know of no arrangement which has taken place between the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the disposition of this bill. As a private member of the Senate I am entitled to the same privileges as anyone else in this chamber, and I was very much surprised to be interrupted by the Leader of the Government, even though he spoke in a kindly way. He took the floor from me when I was arguing a very important point, the urgency of sending this bill to Committee of the Whole House so that each senator, being a member of that committee, would have an opportunity to ask for information that would enable him to come to a decision with regard to this legislation. I am open-minded about this bill and I have no prejudice. I know that every farmer, whether he raises stock or grows wheat, potatoes, oats or barley, is entitled to some consideration. I do not pretend to be trying to help His Honour the Speaker in deciding on this point of order, but I will do my best to help him understand my point of view, which I hope will be shared by honourable senators other than my seconder (Hon. Mr. Stambaugh), for whom I have a high regard. In answering my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) I must be very careful to discuss only the legal aspect of his point of order. As I understand it, we are now on the third reading of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: No; second reading.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: That is still better. Eloquent speeches have been made by members on both sides of the house, and these have been closely followed. But there are many facts that have not yet come to light which would be helpful to honourable senators in making a wise decision about this important measure. My honourable friend the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Haig) has suggested that the bill be sent to a committee set up for the specific purpose of studying present conditions concerning grain growers. This is a bright idea, but something much more practical could be done. If the bill were discussed in Committee of the Whole the proceedings would be recorded in *Hansard*, whereas if it were considered by a special committee it might be that no stenographic report would be made and honourable members would have to take down their own hurried notes. Members who do not belong to the committee would be unable to attend—

The Hon. the Speaker: Will the honourable senator please bear in mind that he is supposed to be discussing the point of order raised by the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine), and that he should not attempt to explain his own motion to refer the bill to the Committee of the Whole. The honourable gentleman should restrict his comments to the point of order to the effect that his own motion should not be proceeded with until after the bill has been given second reading.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I agree with the remarks of His Honour the Speaker.

The Hon. the Speaker: Then I would ask the honourable gentleman to confine his remarks to the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Both matters are closely connected.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I understand that His Honour the Speaker has ruled that the motion of the honourable member from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Pouliot) is out of order.

The Hon. the Speaker: No, I have not done so.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: No, and it is very unfair for the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) to anticipate a ruling and try to put words in the mouth of His Honour the Speaker.

The Hon. the Speaker: I might inform the honourable senator from De la Durantaye that his motion has not been ruled against, but I would ask him to confine his remarks to the point of order under discussion.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: To show how conciliatory I am and how much good will I have, I will not insist at the present time that—

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I might say that there is no motion before the house now—

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: In this I would ask the honourable gentleman's pardon.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I would rise to say there is a motion before the house, for the second reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I will graciously withdraw for the time being.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Unless anyone else desires to speak, I wish to say a few words in conclusion.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I should like to know if the honourable gentleman is closing the debate?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Yes.