of the Department of Trade and Commerce. They are before a committee, and this motion has nothing to do with any other estimates that are now before a committee.

Mr. Peters: I agree that this is true. I only raised the problem of the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce because I think the steering committee of the agriculture committee have felt that we will have to ask for the estimates of the Department of Forestry to be placed before the agriculture committee in order that they may discuss the ARDA program, which is part of the Department of Forestry. I think we will have to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce to appear before the agricultural committee, because the responsibility of that minister includes the operation of the grain commissioners and the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Starr: That is finance.

Mr. Peters: Well, perhaps this has now gone to the finance department. Perhaps I have the wrong minister and the wrong department, but the point is that we should really consider this matter in order to make the work of committees effective. If the agriculture committee is to discuss these matters and report back to the house, in order for the discussion to be complete we must have the opportunity in the committee to discuss the whole problem of agriculture. This will mean a discussion of the estimates of departments that are involved in agriculture. Perhaps the minister has not considered this matter, but I feel strongly enough about it that I am not prepared to give unanimous consent.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Since there is not unanimous consent the minister cannot proceed with the motion.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the estimate referred to by the hon. member for Timiskaming, could I ask the minister whether he would agree to send that part of the forestry estimates dealing with ARDA to the agriculture committee rather than to have it discussed here?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, the house leaders have agreed that those estimates should be dealt with in committee of the whole. However, I shall be very glad not to ask that they be discussed here. I should remind hon. members that committees have responsibility for work assigned to them by the House of Commons. It is not the responsibility of the House of Commons to deal with such work as the committees wish it to deal with. There seems to be some confusion on this point. In any event, I will consider the point and discuss it with the house leaders of the other parties. I would then ask that my motion carry today without reference to the estimates of the forestry department, and that we proceed with discussion of the labour estimates.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I want to support what the hon. member for Timiskaming has said.

Mr. Fairweather: Would the pragmatic socialists hold their caucus somewhere else so we can carry on our business?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Scott (Danforth): If the wiseacre lawyer is finished we can proceed. We seem to have leaders all over the place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Scott (Danforth): This raises a similar problem as far as I am concerned, and I am sure I did not know about this at the beginning. But how stupid can we get?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we should not have a debate on whether there is unanimous consent. I would now ask hon. members whether there is unanimous consent and, if so, the motion will be put.

Mr. Peters: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous agreement.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, could I have one point clarified. Is there unanimous agreement that I have permission to delete the reference to the estimates of the Department of Forestry from the proposal put before the house?

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be allowed to ask a question. I am not objecting to it, but does this not remind the members of the House of Commons that we have agreed to a 30 day limit for discussion of estimates? If we bring in these estimates, which may or may not be the important ones without the business committee having allocated times so there is a fair distribution of the discussion of estimates within the 30 day period, does not this bringing in of estimates