

● (1500)

POINT OF ORDER

USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is ready to rule on the point of order raised by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) on Monday. The Chair, as the House would expect, has carefully examined all the similar cases that could be found. The procedural arguments are absolutely clear. A disorder or breach of the rules must be brought to the Chair's attention at the time of the occurrence. As a consequence, the Chair cannot accept on Monday, a point of order regarding Friday's proceedings which could have and should have been made on Friday, even if that means that certain words offensive to all parliamentarians and clearly unparliamentary remain on the record and unwithdrawn.

The Chair can only do what other Speakers have done in similar circumstances, which is to remind Hon. Members that in some similar circumstances in the past Hon. Members who felt that they had made the remarks that were reported chose to withdraw them voluntarily out of respect for the House and its traditions.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, since we are adjourning today until April 7, perhaps the Government House Leader could give the House some idea of the Government business he intends to call once the House resumes.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question by the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Give us the inside information, Ray.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Well, the inside information is simply that we would like to carry on today with second reading of the Bill with respect to the new Competition Tribunal. If we can proceed with that today we may make progress, but there may be an inclination on the part of the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) to do something else. We will await for motions. I think there has been an indication that we might have a debate on that today.

In any event, the sequence of Bills I want to present to the House for consideration are Bill C-91, An Act to establish the Competition Tribunal, followed by Bill C-62, the report stage of the Employment Equity Bill which has finished the committee stage. I hope that we can address ourselves to the report stage of that Bill.

Following that, I propose that we move to Bill C-67, An Act to amend the Parole Act and the Penitentiary Act and Bill C-68, An Act to amend the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act,

Business of the House

the Prisons and Reformatories Act and the Criminal Code. I believe that will give us a start on Monday. If there is any time remaining we can carry on with other items of legislation.

Having said that, I should advise the House that since we will be adjourning for Easter there may well be Royal Assent for some legislation during the course of the afternoon.

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, will the Government House Leader tell us if he intends to bring in a House order, in compliance with the recommendations of the Reform Committee that were agreed to by the House, to permit television and radio in the standing committees of the House which have now been struck?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned to my distinguished colleague in caucus this morning, the fact is that the House Leaders will be meeting with representatives of the eminent press gallery immediately upon our return from Easter recess so that we can deal with the rules that are acceptable to all concerned. I hope that we will have television and radio broadcasting introduced to the committees at a very early period to at last allow the people of Canada to see what great work the Government is doing.

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Hon. Government House Leader. Back on December 13, arising out of Private Members' Hour, a motion was passed calling for the establishment of a committee to deal with the price of domestic wheat.

On behalf of farmers of this country, I ask whether any progress has been made in establishing such a committee?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member and all Hon. Members generally will understand the importance of the Hon. Member's motion to grain producers in western Canada. Discussions are taking place and I think we have the concurrence of the Liberal Party to proceed with that motion. I am now in the process of discussing the matter with the New Democratic Party and hopefully we will be able to work something out that will allow us to get on with this important initiative, even before Easter recess.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the matter can be resolved right now. As I understand it, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) is prepared to have both the two-price wheat resolution and the Parity Pricing Bill, which was introduced by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom), considered by the committee at the same time in accordance with our understanding of the agreement.

If the House Leader can indicate that that is in fact acceptable to the Government, then we are quite prepared to have the motion brought forward immediately and the reference made.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate the constructive suggestion made by the Hon. House Leader of the New Democratic Party. As he knows, we have attempted to