

Point of Order—Mr. Hnatyshyn

Opposition critics of both parties. The Minister of Justice did so out of courtesy, because we usually prefer to introduce a Bill in the House before having it printed and circulated on both sides of the House. On this side of the House we are very concerned about matters such as human rights and, more particularly, the rights of the handicapped and women's rights. The Minister of Justice therefore thought it appropriate, with a view to speeding up debate, and also considering the fact that we are near the end of the session and have a long list of fiscal and financial measures to consider, to hand his critics a copy of the Bill.

New Democratic Party Members then responded to the effect that they were prepared to let this Bill be referred to committee without debate. It seems the Progressive Conservative Party's response was more negative, since they wanted to be able to give the Bill a public airing first. However, our point is that since the Bill has not yet been introduced in the House, and in view of the limited amount of time at the disposal of the House of Commons and its very heavy workload before the end of the session, we would expect if they really thought it was important . . . If the Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) is really interested in women's rights, she will perhaps let me finish what I am trying to say. If she is really interested in the preservation of women's rights and the rights of the handicapped and in the contents of the Bill, all she has to do is ask the Progressive Conservative Party critic for his copy of the draft bill. All she has to do is take advantage of this opportunity given today by the Minister of Justice, and after doing so, perhaps she could then rise in the House and tell us why she objects to having this Bill referred to committee without debate. We shall then be able to judge just how serious the Progressive Conservatives are about their concern for human rights in this country.

[English]

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): I rise on the point of order, Madam Speaker. There are two matters here. One is that the Government House Leader has told only part of the truth. The part of the truth that he did not tell is that the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) made it clear to the justice spokesman here that the justice spokesman here was not to show the Bill to any other Member of Parliament. That is the part of the truth that the Government House Leader declined to tell.

However, what is of more interest to us is that the Government House Leader has now indicated that what is in the possession of the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is an *avant-projet*. It is a draft Bill. Therefore, he is asking us to speed into second reading, speed into committee without debate in this House, what is only a draft Bill. However, we have seen draft bills from the Government before and we know that they very often change. This Parliament would

be acting with the utmost irresponsibility if we were not able to see a Bill before we judged it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: My point is this: first, there is a question as to whether or not the Bill given to the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West is the real Bill. The Bill on which the Government intends to proceed; and if that is the case will the Government give unanimous consent to allowing this real Bill to be tabled, so that all Canadians, not just a select few amounting to some 280 Canadians, can see it? Why not let the public know what the Government is doing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order.

• (1210)

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the argument of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) is absolutely ridiculous. We are talking about the draft Bill because no Bill has been introduced in the House, and it cannot be a Bill before it is introduced.

An Hon. Member: Then introduce it.

Mr. Pinard: If the Opposition do not like our courtesy of consulting them in advance before introducing legislation—

Mr. Nielsen: Courtesy from you?

Mr. Pinard: —we will simply not go on with that kind of courtesy in the future.

Miss MacDonald: It is the responsibility of the Government.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, on the point of order, you can almost now identify what is about to happen. This Bill will not get passage because of the positions being taken. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) says that we must have the Bill before us in its final form before he is prepared to give it consideration. I wish he had had the same view when the six and five legislation was brought on.

An Hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. Deans: However, I say to him that from that point of view I agree with him—

Mr. Epp: Or you, on the Constitution.

Mr. Deans: I agree with him. The Bill should be tabled for first reading.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: I put to both sides, for Heaven's sakes, think of the people involved—

Some Hon. Members: Oh oh!