

Business of the House

● (2000)

[English]

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): On a point of order, please. I have been listening with a great deal of attention to the comments made by the hon. member. However, he claimed that on July 2 the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) rose to ask a question. I would read the English of the version.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Excuse me. "Yesterday we had Canada's birthday"—

[Translation]

—Canada's birthday, that is a mistranslation. Yes, but he said it in English, precisely!

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. Despite the comments to my right, it is interesting enough that the hon. member has pointed out a fault in translation in *Hansard*, and that is perfectly within the rules of a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Speaker, with respect to *Hansard* for July 2, the French translation does indeed say "fête du Canada", I know that my hon. colleague—who by the way speaks excellent French—was present that day and that he would prefer it to be Dominion Day still, that is obvious from what he is saying tonight. In any event, Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed by the turn of events. Some suggested that this was a hasty bill, yet it had been tabled in June, 1980. I wonder if one can still talk of haste after a year.

Mr. Speaker, despite all these pieces of legislation which were or were not introduced, I would like to speak of certain policies put forth. Why do we not speak of the Farm Prices Stabilization Board for example? I know our hog producers got a lot of help from the federal government, but I do not think we can say as much about the Quebec government. What was extremely important also for my riding was the new textile and clothing policy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Canadians and Quebecers were waiting for this policy, which was well received both by management and by labour and which will enable our textile and clothing industry, which represents many jobs for Canadians, to keep up with the times, to become truly competitive and to give us a really Canadian product while maintaining and increasing the present level of employment. Mr. Speaker, I shall go on to something else, and I believe—

[English]

Mr. Crosby: Tell us about the freedom of information, first.

Mr. Dubois: Yes, we will talk about the freedom of information.

[Translation]

With regard to freedom of information legislation, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not the fault of the party in power, but rather that of the opposition if it has not yet been passed. In any case, Mr. Speaker, I believe that in view of the attitude of the members opposite, the government was certainly right in using the provisions of Standing Order 33, and this is why it will certainly be very happy to see its members go back to their constituency this evening.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, with respect to Bill C-43, the freedom of information bill, I wish that the hon. gentleman would correct the record with respect to the matter of which party was at fault, because we have not reached that.

An hon. Member: You both are!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I think it is quite important that he do so, in view of the undertaking which I gave to the hon. gentleman, as chairman of the committee, with respect to the willingness of our party to carry this matter on.

An hon. Member: Don't mislead the House. You have already done it once.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I realize that the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Dubois) might like the opportunity to reply, but that was not really a point of order. It was a point of debate. Unless there is unanimous consent—

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): —because the hon. member's time has expired, I cannot recognize him. Is there unanimous consent to hear the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) for giving me the opportunity to reply to his question. As concerns the freedom of information bill, at a certain time during the proceedings, a member of the New Democratic Party, who is unfortunately not here now, asked many questions, and later, before the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, he moved that the debate be limited to 10 hours. Before that, it had seemed to me that the official opposition was willing to agree to the bill. When the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) mentioned this limit of 10 hours, the official opposition stated that it was not ready to agree to the bill. Then, let the House be the judge: Is it the official opposition or the second opposition party which did not allow passage of that bill? One thing is certain, consideration of that bill stopped right there.

[English]

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege to speak in this House at any time, although