

Routine Proceedings

subject matter involved a great deal of negotiations, consultations is perhaps a better word, between the two parties. It was thought best that subject matter be referred to the House management committee.

What we are seeing here, Mr. Speaker, which I think you have to take into due consideration is a deliberate action, not only an attempt, by the Government of Canada and numerous ministers of the Crown to frustrate members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, just a minute. You are signalling me to sit down but this is an important aspect of parliamentary procedure, of the doings of the House and the interference with members of Parliament who quite rightly put questions pursuant to the Standing Orders and have not received answers or responses from the Government of Canada.

This is a deliberate attempt by members of this cabinet to frustrate members of Parliament on this side of the House in a collective way. It is a kind of behaviour that I would hope the Chair would take due notice of and give due consideration to for we as members of Parliament, if the subject matter was worth raising in the first instance through a question, must pursue this on other days at other times in terms of trying to get answers to these important questions.

I want to thank my colleague, who happens to be a distinguished member from our great province of Nova Scotia, for attempting to shed some light on this particular matter. However I would hope that the Chair would give due consideration to the kind of inexcusable behaviour of ministers of the Crown that will force us, as members of the opposition, to get up day after day to raise questions of privilege and points of order in order to get answers to these questions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as you, I and hon. members opposite know, the House is due to close for the normal summer recess when members return to their constituencies on June 23. We have been waiting for these questions in excess of 371 days. You can see what is going on. They are trying to rag the puck just as the Detroit Red Wings tried to rag the puck. We know what happened there. The Leafs won.

I suggest to my hon. friend opposite that notwithstanding the inexcusable behaviour of the members of his own cabinet which he now agrees to, they are trying to rag the

puck, they will suffer when the Canadian people go to the next general election.

Mr. McCreath: Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, I share my hon. friend's joy at the great victory of the Toronto Maple Leafs the other night.

I have already made the points that we wished to make. I do want to assure my hon. friend that the motive he attributed to the ministers of the Crown with respect to these questions is certainly not the case with respect to this government. The government will do all it can to see that the questions are answered as expeditiously as possible.

• (1525)

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 395 on the Order Paper stands in my name. I would like to seek consent of the House to be allowed to withdraw it.

I have had meetings with the Department of Transport, specifically the Coast Guard, on a matter relating to the B.C. Ferry Corporation and ship safety. I have been provided with a significant amount of material which responds to my question.

I am prepared to withdraw my question on the understanding, which I believe is acceptable to the government, that the material supplied would also be provided on request to any other interested persons. The department has agreed that if I have any further questions arising from the material I can return to it for clarification. Therefore I would seek the consent of the House to allow the withdrawal of Question No. 395 standing in my name.

Mr. McCreath: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has indeed been considerable discussion with the hon. member and the Department of Transport. An ongoing dialogue has been taking place. The government would certainly agree to his request. If there are other members wishing to receive the same information they need only ask and the Department of Transport would be most willing to go over the information with them. The department would look forward to any further questions my hon. friend may wish to raise.

I want to thank the hon. member on behalf of the Department of Transport for his co-operation and for his interest in the matter which generated this question in the first place.