

*Point of Order—Mr. W. Baker*

impression that the opposition parties are not interested in Bill C-32.

**Mr. Cafik:** That is right.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** The opposition parties asked questions in the House as to when the government would be bringing in the Arab boycott bill. Thus far we have had nothing but fencing from the government House leader.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Surely we have drifted far beyond the point of order. I do not know if there is a response from the President of the Privy Council.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there is a response. I can understand why the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) should rise at this point in order to extricate his leader.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Are you going to let this go, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. MacEachen:** I outlined to the House during the question period, when he and his leader asked me questions, the policy of the government with respect to the bill and the proposition which I had put to the House for the third time, which was accepted by the New Democratic Party, namely, that the bill would be dealt with in all stages in one day, and that proposal was twice rejected today by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark).

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** That is nonsense.

**Mr. MacEachen:** That is the situation. If they want to ask me again tomorrow I will give the same answer. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton talks about strengthening the bill. The bill in its present form has received the approval of Canadian Jewish leaders, and I wonder why the hon. member should feel that he can improve upon their view.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to the business of this House and when this House might be in a position to deal with a bill which we think can be improved substantially. We believe that this bill is urgent, particularly since the responsible minister, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner), has made statements now which call into question the seriousness of the commitment of the Government of Canada to effect protection against Arab boycott provisions.

What we are trying to determine from the minister is whether he is prepared, in light of the new urgency caused by the statements of his colleague, to begin immediately conversations with an eye to discussing when this bill can be brought before this House and when we can have discussions among

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

members of all parties. I see the hon. member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) and the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Robinson), who are very much interested in this legislation and who do not want to see it cast aside. We have a number of amendments that we think will recommend themselves to members in this House, not simply on this side of the House.

● (1510)

What we want to know now from the Deputy Prime Minister and the House leader of the government is whether the government will be prepared to allow this bill to come forward so that it can be debated in the normal way with amendments introduced by the opposition and debated by the whole House. Is he prepared to have a meeting today with the other House leaders to discuss the timing of the introduction of that legislation? If he is, we are prepared—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If we are prepared to entertain this kind of discussion under the guise of a point of order at this time, I will have to recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and other members who want to put a position before the House on their feelings with respect to a particular piece of legislation.

That is a change from the House practice. This is a point of order that we have regularly entertained only on Thursdays at three o'clock. I do not want in any way to extend the practice at the present time. I think it would be better for the House if I do not permit a reply to the last point and if I do not see any other members.

If I am to allow this exercise to go on, however, as though it were a point of order, I will have to have a general round of presentations of positions to be taken on this bill and I see no reason why positions should not then be taken on any other bill.

This is not a point of order unless we entertain this kind of point of order every day after questions. Since we have spent ten minutes on it and put some positions forward on the bill under the guise of points of order which are not points of order except as we deal with House business on Thursdays, I think the prudent thing for the House to do is to terminate the discussion forthwith and carry on with our regular routine proceedings.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I believe in all honesty that I have a question of privilege since our party has been referred to two or three times. In one instance there have been two different constructions put on what I said on behalf of our party.

It is true, as the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said, that the exact word I used in the House was that we were prepared to deal with this legislation "quickly". I meant by that—and I made it clear later to the government House leader—that we are prepared to deal with it in one day. I say again on behalf of our party: we are prepared to deal with Bill C-32 in one day.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!