

Income Tax Act

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Is the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rising on a point of order?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I was rising, not exactly on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, but to ask the hon. member a question or two.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): First, may I express to him my sympathy. He has had difficulty in speaking this afternoon. The hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton is a pretty faithful member of the Friday afternoon club. He is usually here and he speaks often at this time of the week. As a rule it is fairly easy to speak on Friday afternoons because not many hon. members are present. This afternoon he had to talk above the babble on the other side of the House.

Mr. Benson: To say nothing of the four NDP members.

An hon. Member: Where is your babble?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The solid phalanx of Liberal members and all these cabinet ministers on a Friday afternoon almost frighten us.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who knows the rules so well, rose to ask a question. I think he ought to ask his question.

Mr. McBride: Mr. Chairman, could we not hear from the hon. member for Crowfoot first?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, when I first came here I knew how to ask questions directly. However, the longer I have been here the greater have grown the preambles to questions, and I thought I would try a preamble myself. In the course of his speech he suggested that Bill C-244 was a fine bill and he accused us of killing it. If Bill C-244 was such a wonderful bill, and since it is still on the order paper, why does not the hon. member persuade the government to come forward with it again; or is it the case that the provincial election in Saskatchewan and the by-election in Assiniboia gave the government the answer?

• (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. McBride: The point I was making is extremely valid. It is simply that the argument of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre could be boiled down to the simple fact that the grains bill had no guaranteed annual income in it. That is a phony argument against the bill. It was meant to mislead. It was effective. I do not criticize his colleague. He was successful in winning the constituency on that basis. However, it is despicable when a member with the experience and national reputation of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—I say that with all due respect—goes on the CBC network and says that the government is creating ill-will when his own party uses a more deadly form of closure than this government ever did.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Peace River rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. In my usual desire to be helpful I note that today, for the first Friday in three years, we have more than two cabinet ministers in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: Because we have no answers to questions asked—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Baldwin: —I ask leave for there to be a supplementary question period—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Baldwin: —from now until four o'clock.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The Chair did not hear one word said by the hon. member.

Mr. Baldwin: Having made my preliminary point, Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask for unanimous consent to have a supplementary question period, as there are 17 ministers present, in order to get answers to questions which we have not been able to get all week.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Moore: Mr. Chairman, after listening to the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton preaching to his colleagues as if it were Sunday morning, perhaps I will be excused if I come back to the bill in question. I was not sure whether it was a debate, a question period or both.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. McBride: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do not object to personal reflections being made by the very distinguished hon. member for Wetaskiwin, but the fact remains that the nation must know there is a religious zeal for agriculture in the Liberals ranks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Moore: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I missed the point.

Mr. Paproski: There was no point.

Mr. Moore: I did not get the connection. After some of the bills mentioned by the hon. member, I am not even sure what bill we are now discussing.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Moore: I wish to take a few minutes to deal with a small but very important part of this bill. That is the basic herd aspect with regard to dairy farmers. I wish to point out to the previous speaker that I am talking about dairy farmers in every part of Canada, not just western