

Oral Questions

announcement that Your Honour just read from the chair. Will it not be possible, before we proceed with Government Order No. 79, to take one minute and give third reading to the family allowances bill, so that it can be dealt with by the Senate this afternoon and included in the Royal Assent before five o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I am sure I speak for all members of my party when I say that we will give our sincere and utmost co-operation to this worth-while Christmas-like suggestion, without debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, our party has always approved of an increase in old age security pensions and family allowances because we want to improve the status of our fellow citizens. I want to assure the House, on behalf of my colleagues, of our entire co-operation so that this bill to improve conditions for Canadian children will be passed as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, they are now playing politics with the oil shortage while our children are in need of money and while our party wants to deal with serious matters by passing immediately the family allowances bill.

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the House is ready to move so rapidly, perhaps I can add a few other bills, to test hon. members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Here comes the red herring.

Mr. MacEachen: Let us complete the parole bill; let us complete the Canada Pension Plan (Mennonites) bill; let us do the parks bill and the report stage of the residential mortgages bill, and take it all the way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I was going to say that we would agree to taking the report stage of the residential mortgages bill.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I said all the way, and not just the report stage. I was referring to third reading.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, in a spirit of co-operation and in an effort to clear the decks for the showdown on Monday, we will agree to the residential mortgage bill.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, members of the Social Credit Party of Canada are here to do their job. We are ready to approve this proposal.

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, it must be Leader of the House's day. I must say I am just delighted. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, we need a House order now in order to give third reading to the family allowances bill, to deal with the CPP (Mennonites) bill at all stages—

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): No, no.

Mr. MacEachen: —to deal with all stages of residential mortgages, all stages of the Parole Act, and to give the parks bill second reading.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are quite prepared to do this. There may be one or two bills, such as the residential mortgages bill, on which we shall say "On division". However, we will let them pass. We will not force a recorded vote. We will agree to the whole package.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I failed to gather what the minister is giving in return for this agreement. He gave no assurance that the family allowances bill would be dealt with immediately.

An hon. Member: Yes, he did.

Mr. Trudeau: Ask your leader.

Mr. Speaker: I am not precisely sure what has been agreed to. Perhaps the President of the Privy Council might make it clear and the Chair will ascertain whether there is to be an order of the House for that purpose.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, my suggestion was that we give the family allowances bill third reading today.

Mr. Bell: Without debate.

Mr. MacEachen: Without debate.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: I cannot give any assurance about what is to happen in the other place. I have not reached that stage yet. I suggested, in addition, that we do the report stage of the Canada Pension Plan bill, which comes with an amendment proposed by the hon. member for Crowfoot, and give that third reading today, without debate; that we give the parks bill second reading, without debate; that we give the Parole Act third reading, as well, without debate; and that we complete the report stage and third reading of the residential mortgages bill. I will leave for the day when that is done.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, every member of this House from time to time has to assert his presence. Perhaps that is what I am doing on this occasion. The government House leader has outlined a very full program for this afternoon, in the hope that there will be complete co-operation. I say to him and to the House, Mr. Speaker, that I very much regret that I cannot give that assurance, because there is a motion standing in my name which is to be considered at the report stage of the Canada Pension