

important subject to them, the metric system. That is what got our attention.

● (1640)

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I do so with great reluctance. My point of order is that the choice for opposition day has absolutely nothing to do with the content of this bill. I do not understand how a member can stand during this debate and speak about an event which took place on another day on another piece of legislation or, for that matter, an event which has absolutely no relativity or relationship to what is before us.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** The Chair has to draw to the attention of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain that he has not in fact presented a point of order for consideration. I might add that if some member wants as part of his address on the subject matter before us to make reference to the choice of an opposition motion, then it seems perfectly within the rules to do so.

**Mr. Collenette:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a similar point of order. You ruled before you heard all the discussion on this, and that is your right. I agree with a lot of what the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain said; I think he had a legitimate point of order. However, it should not be directed toward the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence, but rather the Conservative opposition which has filibustered this bill for about six weeks in this House.

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

**Mr. Hawkes:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** The Chair will attempt to serve hon. members who obviously do not feel too inclined to address themselves to points of order but rather to quick points of debate. I will hear the hon. member for Calgary West, but I would ask hon. members to remember that if they rise on a point or order, it would be helpful if the Chair could hear the point of order.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Chairman, both officially and unofficially behind the curtain we have offered to the party opposite, the government, quick passage of this important bill at the point when they answer our questions. The filibuster is on the other side of the House. The extraneous comment brought in about the opposition day is another indication of the government's desire, for whatever reason, to extend this bill and keep us longer in debate.

**Mr. Collenette:** On a point of order. This is a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** The same point of order?

**Mr. Collenette:** On the comments of the hon. member for Calgary West. Is he undertaking to make a House order that we would dispose of the Committee of the Whole stage of this bill by six o'clock tonight? If he is making us an offer on the

floor of the House to get this bill through, I am sure the minister, in consultation with the New Democratic Party, will be more than happy to make accommodations. Is the hon. member offering to make that an order of the House?

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** This becomes more and more difficult for the Chair. My inclination is to suggest that if representatives of the parties want to go behind the curtain and make some arrangement, they should do that rather than do so in this loose fashion. I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary West, but I will begin very soon to apply some sense of order. I want to return to the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence who properly has the floor.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will not take much time. If we get our questions answered instead of being given a filibuster, we are quite prepared to allow the bill to proceed.

**Mr. Collenette:** When?

**Mr. Hawkes:** When we get answers. Until then, we will continue to fulfil our obligation on behalf of the taxpayers of Canada and seek answers relevant to this bill.

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

**Mr. Orlikow:** It is on the same point, Mr. Chairman. If there is agreement on the part of the other two parties, we would be quite willing to continue the debate until six o'clock and finish it by that time. We would be quite willing to agree to that. In saying that, I want to say to the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence that the kind of speech he is now making is not conducive to encouraging members on this side to stop the debate.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Mr. Chairman, if my words have in any way contributed to at least a discussion and a dialogue between the parties, I would regard them as being of some value. What I am really pleading for is that we consider the needs of the people to whom this bill directs itself, the unemployed.

I would like to point out that it is a very simple bill. It is a continuation of a former policy. I am really pleading that we not use this forum as anything other than a place to pass bills and to address ourselves directly to the issues at stake. No one side is solely at fault, but we all have a responsibility to try to make sure this bill reaches its destination with all haste.

In that spirit, I suggest that we ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration to do his best, as I hope he is trying to do and know he will try to do, to answer questions. Then if we are promised passage of this bill tonight, that would be to the well-being of all parties.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, I take great offence at the hon. member for Sarnia and the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence lecturing me and my colleagues on the types of questions that we are asking the minister. We are doing this in all sincerity. We are trying to get to the bottom of a \$100