Mr. Mazankowski: The Election Expenses Bill.

Mr. Angus: There is nothing in that Bill to do that.

Mr. Mazankowski: That is right, there is nothing in the Bill. We have entered into discussions with the opposition Parties. We are prepared to move this into committee so that we could discuss this very important issue. We think that, because there is a Bill before the House, with all-Party agreement we would be able to incorporate a new provision, and we had indicated our intention to do so providing we could get the support of the two opposition Parties. They chose to filibuster rather than to move the Bill ahead into committee.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to challenge the good faith of the Deputy Prime Minister on this issue because it is important, but my information was very different. If he is now saying that his Party is willing to deal with that matter on a priority basis before the next election, then, as I have already indicated, it is certainly our view that it ought to be dealt with. My understanding is that that is the view of the Official Opposition as well.

[*Translation*]

During the same Conservative Party Convention in Quebec, they also discussed contributions to political parties. I raised the question three times here in the House in the last twelve months, and I suggested we should have a decision on this issue before the next election campaign.

My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister on this subject as well. To show its political will, would the Government immediately refer the subject to committee for action, before the next federal election campaign?

• (1430)

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I know that the NDP spokesman on the Elections Act is not in the House, nor is his House Leader. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that there were discussions between the Government's Deputy House Leader and other House Leaders to move this Bill into committee so we could deal with the issue of segregation of election expenses and campaign expenses. It is true it was not incorporated in the Bill because it came to light during the course of committee hearings involving the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. However, we are prepared to do that.

With respect to the other item, if we can move this Bill into committee this is clearly another matter that could conceivably be considered. Certainly we have no problem with that. We thought it would be most appropriate because there are some very important matters in the Bill currently before the House that need to be moved on, and if we can incorporate the other provisions we would be prepared to do so.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Prime Minister knows, the resolution passed by the Quebec wing of his Party did not obligate the Party at the national level or the Government in any way.

I have asked three times in the past year that all questions concerning the financing of political Parties be referred for action before the next election, with no predisposition to a conclusion. As well, two cabinet Ministers from Quebec have already made contradictory statements with respect to that Party's resolution. Therefore, will the Deputy Prime Minister commit himself to act on this before the next election instead of supporting something outside the House? It can lead only to conclusions of hypocrisy if it is not dealt with in the House.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I will of course take that as a representation. There will be other matters considered when we get this Bill before committee. For example, we will be considering the propriety of the NDP financing municipal elections under the guise of the Elections Act.

Mr. Broadbent: That is good.

Mr. Mazankowski: Then we will see how far he goes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

AIR SAFETY

REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I have in my hand a copy of a confidential task force report on airport security presented to the Minister of Transport in May of 1986. The report, prepared in the wake of the Air-India disaster, is signed by the Director of Security for Transport Canada and says: "The task force agreed that working conditions for the majority of security screening personnel are very poor, leading to low morale and a high turnover rate, and this inevitably had an adverse effect on security."

The report was presented to the Minister two years ago. Since then nothing has changed.

What action is the Minister now prepared to take in light of recent examples of slackness in our security screening system? Is he now prepared to take airport security out of the hands of Canada's major airlines and have Transport Canada assume direct responsibility for screening of passengers and baggage at Canada's airports?