

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, that is a matter relating to the Private Members' hour. The Government does not interfere with the Private Members' hour. What Government Members might do individually is something that we could discuss. In the event that the Hon. Member does know of another Hon. Member who is prepared to yield his position, he would need unanimous consent of the House. Hon. Members of this side may be disposed to agree. I could not speak for the other side. However, I would be prepared to discuss it with him privately.

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent so that we may enter into debate on my Private Members' Bill.

Mr. Stevens: No.

Mr. Anguish: I did, in fact, consult with an Hon. Member who is willing to yield so that this Bill may come up on Wednesday—Mark—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: A rose between two thorns.

Mr. Anguish:—and I would like to seek unanimous consent of the House that this Bill be introduced on Wednesday.

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I think it would be appropriate for the Hon. Member to seek that consent on Wednesday. Traditionally, Hon. Members on this side of the House have not objected when one Hon. Member was prepared to yield his spot in Private Members' hour to another Hon. Member. I suspect that that would be the case in so far as this side of the House is concerned. However, the Government does not interfere with Private Members' hour, and that is the sort of motion which would be appropriately made next Wednesday during Private Members' hour.

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I would like to support the position taken by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council. We on this side take the same position with respect to Private Members' Business. It is something which is private to the Hon. Member who brings forward a Bill. We feel that the sequence of Bills should be respected. However, I agree that if the Hon. Member wants to make that request next Wednesday, then that is the time to do it. It is the business of Private Members, not of the Government or the Official Opposition.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I substantially agree with the comments made by the Parliamentary Secretary and by the Government House Leader. However, so that an orderly debate can take place, it seems reasonable to inform Hon.

Point of Order—Mr. McCain

Members of our desire to seek that unanimous consent on Wednesday next—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You've done it.

Mr. Deans: We have not yet done it and we are now doing it. At any rate, it would be our desire to substitute the legislation standing in the name of the Hon. Member for The Battledowns-Meadow Lake for that which stands in the name of the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody for debate during Private Members' hour on Wednesday next. I do not want anyone rising next Wednesday and saying: "If only you had given us notice, we might have considered it".

Mr. Stevens: Well, the answer will be no.

Mr. Deans: Oh, the Hon. Member here, "Mouthy," says the answer will be no. That tells us something about the attitude of the Conservatives.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I rise on a point of order. I heard the Government House Leader and the House Leader for the Opposition say that it was no business of the leadership of the Parties, that it was Private Members' Business. I have now heard the House Leader for the New Democratic Party intervene in the debate and make it his business. I suggest that if the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody is here, it is his business because it is his Bill. He is not here now. Therefore, we appreciate the notice, but I do not think we could ever say that consent had been given until it had been appropriately requested by the Hon. Member.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MCCAIN—REPLY OF MR. WHELAN DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I am not permitted to debate any answers which Ministers may give to questions, no matter how little they comprehend the problem mentioned in the question. However, I do wish to say that the lack of comprehension of the international potato trade, as it relates to eastern Canada—

Madam Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order, and the Hon. Member is debating.

● (1520)

Mr. McCain: Madam Speaker, if I were permitted to debate I would use perfectly parliamentary language which would make earlier criticisms appear grossly complimentary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan).