

Inquiries of the Ministry

question to any minister, and when we ask [Text]
for any detail—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: —we are asked to put our questions on the order paper. We do that, and when we get from a minister a written answer which is not at all satisfactory, which does not at all answer our question, Mr. Speaker, then how can we get justice, how can we get the truth and information in the house? This is what I am wondering about and I ask the President of the Privy Council to explain this situation.

[Text]

Mr. McIlraith: On a second point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member has no right to ask you to interpret for him and advise him how he should conduct himself in the House of Commons. If he is not satisfied with the answer given to the written question, then he has means whereby he can seek a remedy but it is not by a debate on orders of the day. I would respectfully ask you, Mr. Speaker, to call orders of the day.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I should like—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has listened attentively and certainly has enough information. The statement that does not please the hon. Member is "information not available". That statement may be quite correct, although it may not please the hon. Member. Therefore I see no question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I maintain that the statement is correct and it is the reason why I demand from the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance a correct answer concerning the loans granted in Ville-neuve county.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: He is able to do so.

[Mr. Caouette.]

SUPPLY

On the order:

House again in Committee of Supply.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Government House Leader could inform us whether the suggestion made by the hon. Member for Ontario is acceptable to the House.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker, so far as the Government is concerned it is quite acceptable to the House. I would be very glad to have an order issued in accordance with the suggestion, that is an order that there be a limited time for stating grievances and that the items of supply then be called. The Government is prepared to proceed immediately with legislation as soon as such grievance period is ended.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, is not the way to find out what the House wishes to do with respect to a matter like this simply to proceed in the normal way, put the motion and find out whether there are Members who wish to speak to it? If there is any doubt about it, I can indicate that there are Members who wish to speak to the motion.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Starr: Perhaps I could speak to this point of order—I think it was a point of order—and ask the House Leader, if that is the procedure to be followed perhaps hon. Members would be agreeable to disposing of this motion today so that we could go on with legislation tomorrow.

Mr. McIlraith: Certainly, in so far as the Government is concerned, the Government would be satisfied with such an arrangement and is prepared to put forward any order for the consideration of the House that would meet the wishes of the House. This is as far as I can go. I cannot speak for the whole House.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Have we not had enough examples during the last two weeks of these new sweetheart agreements and collusion between the Liberals and Conservatives? May we not allow nature to take its course in this House?

Mr. Speaker: I propose to put the motion.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council) moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.