

Mr. HEPBURN: I apologize to the hon. member for Lethbridge if he thinks I have referred to him. I did not have him in mind when I referred to the hon. member for Bow River.

An hon. MEMBER: He doesn't sit behind him.

Mr. CHAPLIN: He doesn't know that.

Mr. COOTE: Does my hon. friend realize that by his action he is apparently endeavouring to prevent the building of a railway to serve some settlers about whom a few minutes ago he seemed to be expressing some concern—people who this fall, if the railway is not built, will have to haul their grain as far as eighty miles.

Mr. HEPBURN: Does the hon. member realize that we from southern Ontario have interests that are just as vital as those which he is promoting.

Mr. COOTE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a question of privilege. I deny that I have blocked anything in this house this session.

Mr. HEPBURN: I am glad to hear this confession of faith.

Mr. COOTE: I ask that the hon. gentleman withdraw that remark.

Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. I think the whole discussion is out of order because when this committee last sat we passed the entire bill, including this section. Then, because of some doubt as to the accuracy of a figure, the bill was allowed to stand. I fully appreciate that members of the house interested in certain private legislation feel very strongly with respect to other members of the house, particularly those in the far corner, who from time to time talked legislation out, as my hon. friend is apparently attempting to do tonight. On behalf of the government, however, I would say that we have no concern at all for the hon. member for Peace River or what he may or may not have done with respect to talking out other legislation, but we have some concern for the settlers who are affected by the proposed railway extensions, and as far as I can I would like to facilitate the passage of this measure in order that the extensions may be proceeded with. I fully appreciate the feelings of hon. members, and of course this is a private bill, but I would say that possibly on both sides of the house there might be a little more consideration

given to the desirability of not pursuing these blocking tactics during this one hour. I am afraid these tactics have been altogether too common this session, and in that connection hon. members in the far corner have done their share if nothing more.

Mr. POWER: The point of order has turned out to be just a little lecture by the Minister of Railways on how members of this house should behave during the hour which is devoted to private bills. I understood the minister to say that although the bill is before us we must not discuss it, for what reason I do not know. The minister says the bill is before us, but discussion on any of the sections is not to be allowed. I would ask the minister to explain further the point of order. If he could convince us that we are not allowed to discuss sections 1 or 2 of the bill I am sure we would let it go through.

Mr. DUNNING: I will try again. All the sections of the bill were agreed to subject to the verification of a figure in section 1, and subject to that point only. That was the arrangement when the committee last considered this bill, so I submit that to all intents and purposes the committee completed their work and only desired to make sure that the figure descriptive of a certain township was the correct one.

Mr. POWER: If the minister will show me anything in the rules which says that a bill may be allowed to stand over subject to verification I should be glad to see it, but as I understand it now the minister is introducing a new procedure. He has had a longer parliamentary experience than is possessed by most of us, but I fail to see anything of that kind in the rules. I submit that if a bill stands over the whole bill is open to discussion unless at the time there was an agreement by unanimous consent that certain sections should be passed. Personally I do not know of any such unanimous consent in this case, and apparently other hon. members do not know of it either. Therefore I take it that every section, every clause and every word in the bill is open to discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the minister is labouring under a misapprehension; no section of the bill was passed when it was last before the committee. It was allowed to stand over while we were discussing section 1, there being some question as to whether a certain figure in section 1 was right or wrong, so the whole bill stood until that figure could