

Business of the House

1 or on any other clause of the Canada pension plan should not be continued as long as we have not received the French version of the committee's reports.

I believe that an important event happened yesterday afternoon, and it was brought about by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Perron). Due to the fact that everyone seems to agree that this is a question of privilege, I believe that the people of this country would appreciate the house adopting unambiguously the motion which is tantamount to the statement which was made by the Prime Minister a short while ago. The House of Commons, by a unanimous vote, would be approving the motion presented by the hon. member for Beauce and the statement of the right hon. Prime Minister, because in my opinion that statement is more or less an acceptance of the motion presented by the hon. member for Beauce.

In my opinion, a unanimous vote in favour of this motion would be in order at this moment.

[Text]

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I wish to wholeheartedly support the suggestion made by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire)—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Herridge: —because the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) obviously said yes to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker); or is the Prime Minister going to retreat on this issue?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the previous remarks and those made by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) are being placed on the record.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Skoreyko: Take them off. You have all kinds of power. You have taken everything else off.

Mr. McIlraith: The situation is that the question has caused concern to all hon. members, and the suggestion made earlier in the afternoon, during the question period, seemed a reasonable one to meet the difficult situation confronting the house.

An hon. Member: Confronting the Liberal part only.

Mr. McIlraith: That suggestion, if I understood the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) correctly—and here I am necessarily

relying on the simultaneous translation and have some doubt about some of the words the hon. member used—was rejected by the hon. member for Lapointe.

Mr. Grégoire: No.

Mr. McIlraith: There seems to be uncertainty about it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Starr: Why don't you have a caucus?

Mr. McIlraith: If the position is, as was stated by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), that the motion by way of privilege is not being proceeded with, then I would call the opting out legislation. But I find myself in some difficulty understanding exactly what the position is.

Mr. Starr: We are having some difficulty understanding you, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to suggest a way out of the impasse, which seems to me the right procedural way and the thing to do at the present time, namely that we proceed with the orders of the day.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, if the government house leader wants to understand, he had better stop chatting with his colleague, the Minister of Transport.

The suggestion we made is this. In view of the fact that the right hon. Prime Minister has agreed, in reply to a question by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), to put off any debate on clause 1, on a motion for third reading, until we have received the French version of the proceedings of the special joint committee on the pension plan, and in view of the fact that this corresponds exactly to the purpose of the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Beauce, I think that the house should consider it is an honour and a responsibility to vote unanimously for the motion presented by the hon. member for Beauce, so that the whole country will know that the House of Commons intends to respect the rights of bilingualism in the parliament of the nation.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope that I could bring some light into a rather confused situation; at least it seems confused to me. The basic question is whether or not a bill in the House of Commons can be discussed, assuming that the evidence has not been completely finished in its English and French printing. I have made a search of the records since confederation, and there is