

Business of the House

question, that was sufficient. If the hon. minister has a reply, he may now reply to that question.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, there are many ways to deal with this situation. We have a budget. We will have many bills flowing from that budget which will be debated the minute the NDP will allow this Parliament to work. We are ready to work with very good legislation to help farmers in this country. We have a bill today, Bill C-85, Canagrex, with which we are not able to proceed because many questions which could be put later on or through House leaders are being posed by the hon. members of the NDP. Therefore, from now on, out of respect for the farmers of this country, I will take note of all questions on House business and report to the House leaders at the next meeting.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi on House business?

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Yes, Madam Speaker. In view of the serious problems to be discussed in this Parliament, I wonder when hon. members opposite will let us get on with House business and stop trying to score cheap political points.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as House leader for the government. In view of the lay-offs which have occurred in the mining communities of Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake in my riding, I was wondering whether the government will introduce legislation to ensure that it knows ahead of time when massive lay-offs will take place, that government officials will meet with company and union officials to decide whether such lay-offs are indeed necessary, or whether there might be ways of getting around lay-offs, such as on-the-job training programs and government funds to provide for communities such as Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake. Does the government have any plans to introduce such legislation, or to see if they are necessary, to make sure that the—

Madam Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Comox-Powell River.

Mr. Skelly: Madam Speaker, I have another question for the House leader since he is so forthcoming on matters of legislation. Could the House leader tell us if there will be amendments to the Indian Act this session of Parliament? Does the government intend to allow companion legislation to accompany changes in the Indian Act so that independent bands would be allowed to develop as their status would require?

● (1550)

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, I have a further question for the government House leader. Considering the amount of unemployment in the lumber and construction industries in this country, does the government have any plans to increase

housing for native people to help boost employment in the woods, in the lumber and construction industries, and also provide needed housing for native people in this country?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You're dragging, boys; pick it up. Show more enthusiasm.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council and government House leader. It refers to cow-calf operations in western Canada. Will the minister indicate whether the government is going to bring forward concrete and precise legislation which will indicate once and for all the government's intention regarding beef marketing boards, in view of the uncertainty and confusion existing particularly in cow-calf operations in western Canada?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Nystrom: Madam Speaker, I have a short question for the government House leader. The hon. member for Brant put the following question to the government House leader: Is there a special program, a special policy or a special bill aimed at fighting unemployment in Canada? He also pointed out that a number of people had been laid off in Ontario and Quebec and that there were many problems in southern Ontario, more specifically in the riding of Brant. I would appreciate it if the minister would say whether a special program exists at this time for the purpose of fighting unemployment in Canada. This is a very short question and I do want an answer.

[*English*]

Mr. Parker: Madam Speaker, my question is also for the government House leader. It is with regard to the heavy lay-offs in the lumber industry in British Columbia. Hundreds of people are being laid off. The railways are being affected by this. Is the minister prepared to bring in legislation to deal with those kinds of lay-offs, which are manifesting over and over—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. These are all questions which would be better answered during the course of the question period. I remind hon. members that government business does not, in the terms we consider it at this period, have the scope to cover all government activities for all time. Government business has to do with what is being proposed in terms of legislation to be put before this House. It is legislation that has been announced by ministers. Hon. members know it will come forward at some time. I think members are abusing this particular time for questioning the President of the Privy Council on government business.

Mr. Nielsen: Not all members.

Madam Speaker: It cannot address the whole scope of government activities and government business.

Mrs. Mitchell: Madam Speaker, I would really appreciate an answer from the government House leader on this impor-