

Private Members' Business

and is not a bad record. All of us realize that responding to these questions requires a great deal of research, study and departmental time. The fact is that 3,974 questions have been answered to date and we all know what an expense that is to the taxpayers.

Having said that, I will certainly endeavour to get back to the Hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Acting Parliamentary Secretary says they are perhaps not batting 1,000, but they are batting zero as far as my questions are concerned. There are five other questions, Nos. 3,216, 3,217, 3,218, 3,219 and 3,220, all asking similar questions about the escapades of our Prime Minister in some far away part of the world. When can we get public record information as to what these escapades cost and, in fact, how much of that cost will the public be required to cover?

Mr. Peterson: Madam Speaker, if the question involves the major premise that these trips are merely escapades, I can understand why he does not even deserve an answer to them. My goodness, is there any Head of State who is not called upon to travel around the world in order to keep in touch with their trading partners, allies, those who are committed to defending the free world, along with Canada? These are important trips and I resent very much the fact that the Hon. Member for York-Peel is calling the trips escapades.

* * *

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for production of papers be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: Shall all notices of motions for production of papers be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Orders of the day.

● (1520)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. When you, Madam Speaker, called Orders of the Day, if you were to stand all items of Private Members' Business and call

Bill C-653 immediately, I am authorized to give the unanimous consent of the Progressive Conservative Party to immediate passage of Bill C-653 in order that it may go to committee for consideration.

We understand that the NDP Party is also prepared to support the immediate passage of this Bill. I have taken the precaution of advising the independent Member of the House for Edmonton East (Mr. Yurko) of our intention and he advises that he is in agreement with our actions.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: First of all, shall all items listed under Private Members' Public Bills preceding No. 653 be allowed to stand by unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

[English]

FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton-Middlesex) moved that Bill C-653, an Act to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

* * *

[Translation]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull) moved that Bill C-661, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (Registration of Political Parties), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of presenting Bill C-661, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and more specifically as it deals with registration of political parties. My explanations will be brief, Mr. Speaker, because I shall also be highlighting a number of facts to demonstrate that eventually, it will be necessary to change the Canada Elections Act, and perhaps also the Income Tax Act, regarding the deductibility of donations to registered political parties.

In order to preserve the national character of federal political parties, this Bill would limit registration to parties that have the required number of candidates distributed in a majority of the provinces.

I shall now refer to the present text of Sub-sections 13(2) and 13(3) of the Canada Elections Act, which reads as follows:

"(2) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a political party pursuant to subsection (1), the Chief Electoral Officer shall examine the