

Business of the House

My question relates to the Canada Labour Code legislation which he indicated might be brought back. I think he recognizes that members of this House will have a problem if it is not brought back soon.

• (1520)

[*Translation*]

There is no use in the House of Commons rushing this legislation through all stages if there have not been arrangements made with the Senate to deal with the legislation this afternoon.

It does not appear to me, and I have asked the government House leader, that it would be valuable for this House to pass the legislation in all stages unless we have a guarantee that the Senate will be available to do the same later on today, and not next Tuesday.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I am giving second-hand information here, so please do not hold me to it if it turns out to be wrong, but the latest information I have is that the Senate was prepared to work up until later this afternoon.

If we were prepared to deal with the legislation now, we could get it over there in time for it to pass it this day. It would take four days off a four-month strike.

If the strike goes on for four months and four days, I guess only those who are inconvenienced and out of pocket by the strike will have to complain. I do not think I should comment more about the Senate's attendance or I am liable to make more enemies than I already have over there.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, this is just for clarification for the public.

We are not dealing with back-to-work legislation. By the minister's referral to a strike, he ignores the gist of the legislation which is basically to enforce the employers to negotiate under the Canada Labour Code.

I think for the benefit of the public it is not a matter of ordering people back to work. This is legislation which is clarifying the Canada Labour Code to make sure that the employers are able to negotiate as one body.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY**REPORT OF AUDITOR GENERAL**

Mr. Speaker: I am pleased to table the report of the Auditor General of Canada concerning the operations and administration of the Library of Parliament.

This audit was originally requested by the Parliamentary Librarian and was endorsed by the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons.

[*English*]

I should point out that the Auditor General's first observation in this report is that:

The Library of Parliament received strong endorsement from parliamentarians regarding the extent to which it meets their needs.

I would like to say on behalf of the House of Commons our thanks to the Auditor General and his staff for a constructive review of the Library of Parliament and I understand that his suggestions will be taken into consideration, studied and acted upon by members of the staff of the Library of Parliament.

Again, I want to extend to our librarian, Mr. Spicer, and his staff our well-deserved thanks for their ongoing commitment and dedication to serving the information requirements of parliamentarians and making it easier for members to do their work on behalf of our country.

I now have the ruling that I referred to earlier today in an exchange with the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and I hope that the ruling will help all hon. members to understand certain procedures that are taking place with some legislation.

I wonder if hon. members could perhaps take their conversation behind the curtain because I think it is being picked up by the microphones. I would ask hon. members to take their conversation perhaps just a little bit farther away. Thank you.