

to order—I hope that the discussions that are going on for reciprocal social security treaties with other countries will be pressed. Many Canadians are puzzled as to how we can have reciprocal treaties with so few countries. I believe we have them with Portugal, Italy, West Germany, and there is the possibility of one with the United States, but still none with the United Kingdom. I trust that the Minister of State for Finance will press his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Begin), to do as he has done to get her to obtain these agreements.

With those pleas to the government, we are prepared to give second reading to this bill.

**Mr. Evans:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In the same spirit of parliamentary progress in which we have come to agreement among the three parties on other matters, there might be agreement to put this bill through Committee of the Whole and third reading. If that is so, I would ask Your Honour not to see the clock until we can complete that business.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** If the disposition exists, we will proceed in that fashion. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (1300)

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, as the parliamentary secretary knows, I have been trying to carry on some long distance discussions with my colleagues. I would be much happier if we proceeded only with the Committee of the Whole stage and let third reading stand on the order paper until some further date. However, we are prepared to agree that, instead of sending this bill to the overworked Standing Committee of Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, we deal with it in the Committee of the Whole. As far as I and my whole party are concerned, we are prepared to do that before one o'clock.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, that is agreeable.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Provided there is not too much obfuscation in the chamber at the moment!

**Mr. Knowles:** That is a proper word!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Over the lunch hour perhaps those who work in *Hansard* might appreciate instructions as to how they are to proceed on the matter of obfuscation.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee and reported.

[Translation]

**Mr. Bussièrès:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, a while ago at the end of my comments, I indicated that the hon. member for St. John's

### *Meat Import Act*

West (Mr. Crosbie) and other members had shown their interest in the tax convention between the United States and Canada and wanted to know where we stood. I would like to say first that the convention has been signed and that in January we issued a press release stating the general outline of the convention as understood by the negotiators. Some papers still need to be completed. However, the government intends to act as quickly as possible as soon as everything is formally finalized. That is the information I wanted to give Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles:** What about Canada and West Germany?

[Translation]

**Mr. Bussièrès:** Mr. Speaker, as for the negotiations concerning the tax convention between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, there was one round last June. Some important questions were still in abeyance. If I remember well, there will soon be some other negotiations and meetings between the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and their Canadian counterparts in order to arrive at a final agreement respecting the convention.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles:** "When shall the bill be read the third time?"

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** When shall the bill be read the third time?

**Mr. Knowles:** At the next sitting of the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** At the next sitting of the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** With thanks to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for his assistance.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 1.06 p.m. the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### MEAT IMPORT ACT

#### MEASURE TO REGULATE IMPORTATION OF MEAT

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture)** moved that Bill C-46, to regulate the importation into Canada of fresh, chilled and frozen meat and to amend the Export and Import Permits Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.