

National Energy Program

Mr. Pinard: That was done today.

Mr. Clark: Indeed it was done today. If on the very day the reference is made to a committee to allow Parliament to consider a reform of the rules the government acts in a spirit which denies Parliament the capacity to act, I am sure that matter would be deeply regretted by all members of the House. It could cast a long shadow over our subsequent ability to work productively together in this chamber.

Madam Speaker: Before we go any further, I want to tell the House that there are two difficulties. The first is with regard to obtaining unanimous consent. Second, I have to inform the House that I do not have a signed copy of the report by the chairman. That is irrelevant if the House wants to give its unanimous consent. I am in the hands of the House. I can do all of these things if the House consents.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) with honey voice talks about spirit. He must know what happened this morning. Committees do not usually meet on Monday mornings. The Standing Committee on Indian Affairs agreed to meet at the request of some members of his party who said they wanted to deal with substantive matters, not to vote on the estimates as such. The Tory party members played a trick this morning when they voted on one of the items, surprising the members on the government side because, once again, committees usually do not meet on Monday mornings. The trick was played then. The spirit must be considered in the light of what happened this morning in that committee. The trick was played by the Tories. Having that in mind, we must understand that it is not very easy for us who, knowing that we have been tricked, were willing tonight at eight o'clock, when the chairman of that committee rose to seek unanimous consent to table the report—including the trick of the Tories—to agree to that. The Tories said no. I rose on a point of order, asking it to be noted that the Tories said no. Now they want to play a trick, but they could not put their act together. It is as simple as that. Tonight the Leader of the Opposition talks about good spirit and he says we had better agree to the talking because the spirit might change. Just because of blackmail, the answer is no. We do not agree. We do not consent.

• (2215)

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Pinard: We do not like to be blackmailed, Madam Speaker, nevertheless—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: Nevertheless, he should know that under the rules, by unanimous consent anything can be done. When I said to him that, despite all this, I was willing to consider his request and come back tomorrow, after having talked to the chairman of that committee—who is not here at this time—he

should have known that, by unanimous consent, we can go beyond the rule which says that by midnight a report is deemed to have been made. So I will not give in to his black-mailing tonight. We will give consent only after I have had the opportunity to speak—

An hon. Member: Order, order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: It is obvious to the Chair that there is no unanimous consent for the request to table that report tonight.

Mr. Oberle: Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: Is it a question of privilege or a point of order?

Mr. Oberle: A point of order, Madam Speaker. I must bring to your attention and to the attention of the President of Privy Council, the government House leader (Mr. Pinard) that I and several other of my colleagues in the House tonight are members of this committee. I fail to see that there were any tricks played. I do not know what was reported to the House leader, but there were no tricks.

Madam Speaker: Order. I do not think I can entertain any more discussion about this particular problem. There is no unanimous consent. This was the request that was made by an hon. member. There is no unanimous consent. In my view, the question is final for the time being and it being ten o'clock—

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY—APPLICATION OF NON-PROFIT BARRIERS TO JAPANESE IMPORTS. (B) CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF SHIPS CARRYING JAPANESE IMPORTS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we have a problem in this country, and it is not only a problem of procedure in this House. Right now I am considering the problem that we face on the west coast, where customs officers have been directed by one of the ministers, or maybe by several of the ministries, to use banana republic tactics to abuse the Japanese auto importers in the port of New Westminster, the Fraser Harbour Commission and the Annacis Island. Mr. Speaker, that problem is symptomatic of a much deeper problem. The minister has resorted to that particular tactic of dragooning those importers and chastising them and the workers on the west coast, because of his abject failure in negotiating with the Japanese car manufacturers.