

hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) misled this House, because there is no question if you peruse the debates on March 20, 1978. The identical speech that was given last night was made by the Minister of Agriculture on a previous date.

One speech from the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is enough to put you to sleep. A second speech is more than the body can stand.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there is one point that has to be made in connection with the comments made by the hon. member to explain the situation in which the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) found himself acting as the Minister of Agriculture. When the bill was called to follow the anti-inflation bill and the vote on the anti-inflation bill had taken place, the Minister of Agriculture was not in Ottawa. He was in another place, and the Minister of Veterans Affairs was acting for him and had been advised that the second reading speech had not been given by the Minister of Agriculture. On that basis he presented the second reading speech. I think it is unfortunate that the Minister of Veterans Affairs had been misled in this way. I am sure the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is not complaining about repetition as an obstacle to speechmaking in the House of Commons because, if repetition were an obstacle, then the House would have been adjourned several months earlier.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The point rarely arises in such a graphic illustration, as given by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, (Mr. Hnatyshyn) and I realize the validity of his point. It is one that would have had validity as a matter of order during the course of debate on second reading, in respect to that particular measure. The point is well taken. In fact it raises two matters that are prohibited, not simply that of being repetitious but also the fact of reading a speech has another interesting connotation.

However, the President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), has raised the difficulty that the Chair faces in attempting to enforce in a uniform and consistent way those provisions in our practice here. In any case, the point is well taken but, regretably, is behind us.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. DIONNE (NORTHUMBERLAND-MIRAMICHI)—INCORRECT
ATTRIBUTION OF INTERJECTIONS IN DEBATE

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises out of what was said by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn). I want to point out that if the suggestion made by the hon.

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member for Saskatoon-Biggar is to apply to members on this side of the House, it ought to apply to members on the other side as well, particularly the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie).

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, my point of order, I hope, will facilitate work in the House of Commons over the next day or so. I understand that we will be debating Bill C-8 at the present time under a —

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): There has been no time allotted yet.

Mr. Murta: Well, I understand we are going to be debating Bill C-8, which is the labour bill. On behalf of my party we would like to obtain agreement that the farm credit legislation that has been brought in will be passed either by Friday or early Monday. We have had discussions with the chairman of the agricultural committee, to the extent that if we could get the legislation into the agricultural committee on Tuesday it could be arranged that it pass third reading Tuesday night before the budget debate starts. It is an important piece of legislation.

The Farm Credit Corporation is virtually out of money, or it will be by the middle of April. We are certainly prepared to move this bill through all stages as quickly as possible.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we would be willing to regard the debate on second reading of the Farm Credit Act as finished, endorse the bill, and send it to committee right now.

Mr. MacEachen: On the point raised by the hon. member with respect to the farm credit bill, if it is the desire of the House to send the bill to committee now without debate, I will call it first and then we can go on with the arrangements that have been made with respect to Bill C-8.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, with respect to my Standing Order 43 motion I just want to have the assurance that the unanimous will of our parliament will be channeled to all countries with which we have either diplomatic relations or that we recognize. As for the way of doing it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) made that abundantly clear.