

Fisheries and Forestry

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In terms of enforcing the rules of the House, I wonder if it might be possible for the Chair to consult the Hon. Member and ask him if he is merely talking this motion out in order to prevent the House from taking a vote?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order.

Mr. Gurbin: Mr. Speaker, I am only embarrassed to have to deal with these people, not embarrassed to be here. The point I was trying to make, if they would care to read the motion, is that even if the motion had sat there without being debated this afternoon, the committee, and I give full credit to the chairman in particular for this—

Mr. Riis: Why didn't you support him?

Mr. Gurbin: Here we go again. The committee has accomplished a very considerable end.

Mr. Blaikie: Why did you betray your own committee?

Mr. Gurbin: The substance of the motion as it stands before us now refers to the advisability of the Government considering postponement. Those things have been in process ever since the committee brought the motion forward. They will continue on in spite of some of the things that have happened in between. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) who made an excellent intervention this afternoon, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) have lent their support to trying to seek as reasonable as possible a resolution to this matter.

There is something Hon. Members opposite should understand. They are hung up. One of the primary foci of the first intervention this afternoon was on the Order in Council. Yes, there is a legal obligation for the Minister of Transport to sign an Order in Council, but the Order in Council is only offering the opportunity for CN to do things. That is a legal obligation.

Mr. Riis: That is exactly what we are worried about.

Mr. Gurbin: That by itself does not result in the consequence of one piece of rock falling into one drop of water anywhere along that portion of land. I think, from what we heard from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, that there has to be, particularly because of this motion and the

work of the committee, an honest effort on the part of the Government to resolve the situation that did occur, unfortunately and regrettably because of the lateness of the introduction of the EARP process as a result of difficulties that there have been historically. I am not going to waste any time or spend any time on that.

Mr. Keeper: Let's vote.

Mr. Gurbin: Mr. Speaker, I have been on my feet now for maybe ten minutes, and for about five minutes of that I have been listening to catcalls from the other side.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. We must see if the Hon. Member has a point of order.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I regret taking a moment of the Hon. Member's time, but I think this is important. It is two minutes before the hour, for those who are watching this debate or who read it later—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please.

Mr. Gurbin: In the final several minutes that I have left, if anybody is watching now and doing anything but laughing at the NDP and the Liberals, I would like to—

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If the NDP did not waste so much time, we could have voted today.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please.

Mr. Gurbin: Mr. Speaker, in the final moment I have left, I want to—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe the Hon. Member for Skeena has a point of order, or are you just fooling around with the Chair?

Mr. Fulton: No, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would hope not. In any event, I regret to say that I cannot hear a point of order because it is now six o'clock.

It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.