

the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUANCE OF CUSTOMS PRECLEARANCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): That was certainly well worth waiting for, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As customs preclearance at airports is of great assistance to the large number of Canadian businessmen who go to the United States every day to sell Canadian products and the large number of American businessmen coming to Canada to buy Canadian products, will the minister speak to his colleague, the Minister of Transport, and ask him to get the lead out and get this matter straightened out so that this very necessary service can be maintained to assist those who want to build Canadian trade?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to rise on a question of privilege, but I do so to make a very serious appeal to Your Honour as the protector of all members of the House. Perhaps no members know this more than those of us who grace the back rows. Your Honour has heard many representations, complaints and suggestions about the question period. Your Honour has undertaken to ensure that there will soon be changes made so that the question period will make parliament what it should be.

Again today we have seen that the question period is not working. I have personally experienced this. There were a number of serious questions of national and urgent importance to be posed to the Solicitor General. They could not be put because the time limit forced Your Honour to move on to other subjects and legitimate questions of other hon. members.

My question of privilege is simply an appeal. While we appreciate Your Honour's undertaking that a review is being made of the question period, on behalf of all hon. members I urge Your Honour to speed up that process because we are in serious straits under the present situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The reference to the question period made earlier by the Chair was to the effect that the matter would be studied by the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. I believe that the matter will be looked into by that committee. If hon. members wish to make representations in this regard, they should make them to the chairman and members of the committee. I suggest to all hon. members that one reform that could easily be adopted would be for members asking questions to exercise more self-discipline—

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: —by limiting the length of the questions posed to ministers and by limiting the number of supplementaries. When we have as many supplementaries as we had today on practically every question that was asked, it is unfortunate that some members, usually those in the back rows, are penalized. In such circumstances it is unfortunate that members in the third, fourth and fifth rows are penalized from day to day when there are too many supplementaries.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would be possible for the chairman of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to make a report, either later today or tomorrow, in order to give us some idea of what progress has been made. The question raised today by the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth was brought to the attention of Your Honour and the House five or six weeks ago. I think at that time all hon. members agreed that something had to be done, perhaps along the lines suggested by Your Honour, to make the question period more workable. I think this would be an appropriate time to have a report on the work being done to see if there is some way of lengthening the question period or some other modification that is appropriate.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

WAYS AND MEANS

INCOME TAX ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion to amend the Income Tax Act.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved:

That a Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Act, laid upon the table Thursday, March 29, 1973, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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WAYS AND MEANS

INCOME TAX ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion to amend the Income Tax Act.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved:

That a Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Application Rules, 1971, laid upon the table Thursday, March 29, 1973, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.