

Canada Grain Act

the years 48 hours has not meant 48 hours, just as 24 hours has not meant 24 hours.

Mr. Horner: It certainly has.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Perhaps the hon. member, who may have something more to say, will let me continue. In other words, it has been long established by precedent—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Five o'clock.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): On a point of order, I point out to the hon. member that it has been established by precedent—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That does not stop the clock.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am sorry but I think this is a serious and important point. I hope that the hon. member will participate in the discussion on it, and not prevent me from speaking on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The suggestion has been made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that it is five o'clock and perhaps we might go on to private members' business. At the same time a very interesting point of order has been raised by an hon. member.

● (5:00 p.m.)

There may be agreement on the part of hon. members to hear comments of those interested in enlightening the Chair at this point. I might say, in view of the intervention of the hon. member for Crowfoot yesterday, I have given the point a very serious thought in the meantime. I certainly have no intention of making a decision until such time as I have heard the views of very learned and experienced members of this House on such matters. If there is agreement, perhaps we might exhaust the point of order which has been raised by the hon. member for Crowfoot and then go on with the private members hour. Is this agreed?

Mr. Horner: Before it is agreed, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I have always been a defender of the private members hour and the right of the individual to make full use of the private members hour. Realizing that we have all evening to iron out this legal and technical problem, I am not particularly anxious to tread on private members who may have a subject for debate in this period. I would hate to use their last private members hour to debate a rules

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

question which should be considered during House of Commons time.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could put a question to the hon. member. This has been called as the next item for the business of the House. The Chair would have a better opportunity over the dinner break to study the various points made. It seems a simple logical suggestion and a courtesy to the Chair to put the arguments now so His Honour can consider them and rule on them at eight o'clock. If the hon. member says he will not permit it—

Mr. Horner: It depends on the private members.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Perhaps I could ask whether I could have the indulgence of the House to finish my remarks, which I assure Your Honour will be very brief.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I wonder if I could make a suggestion. I may have to use my most appealing voice after what I have heard recently. I wonder if we could proceed with this question of the point of order raised by the member for Crowfoot and get it settled. Could we not also face the fact that doing this will cut into the private members hour and perchance the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) may just as soon let his bill go and take it up on some other occasion? After all, there is a social event most members are going to during the supper hour. Maybe we will finish this point by half past five at which time we could call it six o'clock.

Mr. Thompson: The hon. member who has just spoken seems to have lost his concern for the rights of the private members of this House. We very rarely get an opportunity to speak. I have been waiting exactly 12 months to bring this bill before the House. It seems we should not take this last opportunity—

Mr. Horner: I do not think there is unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker: The way things are going now it appears we will be spending the whole hour deciding whether we should take any part of the hour for the procedural matter, five minutes of this very important hour having elapsed already. The hon. member for Red Deer being obviously anxious to get on with the presentation of the matter, we might go on to private members business and hear further on the point of order at eight o'clock.