

particular, to the amount of \$600 million that will be taken out of payments to families. They call upon this House to restore the indexing of family allowances, the removal of which is proposed.

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BANKRUPTCY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING FARMERS AND FISHERMEN

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma) moved for leave to introduce a Bill C-253, entitled an Act to amend the Bankruptcy Act (farmers and fishermen).

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, these amendments to the Bankruptcy Act would provide a legal mechanism for farmers and fishermen to apply to a court for an arrangement to settle debts.

It would provide a pre-foreclosure arbitration procedure by the court. Farmer-creditor arrangement legislation has been called for by groups, such as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the National Farmers Union, and others. Therefore, I introduce this Bill.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was served with a notice a little while ago in this House stating that questions Nos. 450, 451 and 452 were to be replied to this afternoon. That notice was given to me approximately half an hour ago. I believe some explanation is warranted as to why replies are not to be provided when I was told previously that today they would be. Specifically, why is the Government stalling and delaying its answers to questions concerning trips of the former Minister of the Environment?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, as always we are ready, willing and able to assist the Hon. Member by presenting answers to questions on the Order Paper.

As it happens, in defence of my colleague who is not here today, let me say that when I had to stand up for a second day in a row to request that all questions be allowed to stand, I asked why. I am told that the question of the acceptability of questions, whether or not these questions are in order, is presently under consideration. That is the information I have

Excise Tax Act

been given. I am sure that in due course we will have a satisfactory answer.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT AND RELATED ACTS

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-80, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Marchi (p. 8360).

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, immediately prior to the recess I was explaining for the record the reason that the Hon. Member put a motion on the floor to hoist the Bill for six months. After a full debate, during which many Members of the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party have had an opportunity to contribute, the Government decided to allocate one further day for finalization of the debate.

At this point earlier today the unholy Liberal and NDP alliance ran out of steam, speeches and rhetoric. The House will know that we are in a period of 10 minute speeches and that members of the Opposition who have spoken will not be able to speak again unless the device used by the Hon. Member is used to freshen the list.

This comes at a time of severe embarrassment to the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party is decimated by the fact that nobody from the Quebec Liberal Party wants to go to the convention in Halifax this weekend and the leadership contest between the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner) and the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) is heating up—

Mr. Gauthier: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Rather than deal with it as a point of order, I might just remind the experienced Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary of the rule of relevance.

Mr. Gauthier: We do not mind the publicity.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I was just relating the relevancy of the amendment to hoist the Bill to the difficulties of the Liberal Party in finding speakers to speak on the Bill. That is the binding relevance.