

*Agricultural Committee Discussions*

leaves a member, who has a greater responsibility in particular during consideration of a bill than would be imposed upon him had the proceedings been undertaken in the House, without the protection that other members have who participate in House deliberations. The House, through an order, granted me the right to sit on the committee as a member and to participate in all the deliberations and votes in that committee. By denying me the right to speak, the chairman of the day denied a ruling of the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Korchinski:** I think you will agree with me that there is now and has been in the past a feeling that Your Honour has, as have other Speakers, displayed a sense of fairness in allowing equal opportunity to all members of the House of Commons, who have the right and the duty to speak on all matters during consideration in the House or in committee.

In the House of Commons, when it is intended to impose closure on debate, proper notice is usually given. This is not the case in committees, and members of committees are then at the mercy of the majority of government supporters who are preoccupied with the idea of getting the bill out of committee and back into the House before the summer recess.

In the past I have raised other questions of privilege pertaining to the committee system. I believe I have no other recourse than to appeal to you on this occasion to display a sense of justice and allow this question of privilege. If you so rule, I would be prepared to move the following motion seconded by the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth):

That the committee proceedings, particularly as they apply to the study of bills, be reviewed by the Procedure and Organization Committee in order to establish certain guidelines for the protection of all members of the committee which would be comparable to the protection afforded by Your Honour during proceedings in the House of Commons or by the chairman during proceedings in the Committee of the Whole.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the point raised by the hon. member for Mackenzie concerning incidents that would have occurred at last night's regular sitting of the Committee on Agriculture, I should like to reply at least to the reference the hon. member made to my behaviour as chairman of that committee, to

[Mr. Korchinski.]

the effect that one of the rulings I handed down in the course of the proceedings was biased.

The hon. member claims that the chairman was not fair to the members of the opposition who wished to take part in the clause by clause discussion on Bill C-196.

I wish to point out to the House that I have never prevented anyone from availing himself of his privileges and his rights. In all fairness, however, I believe that a committee chairman must direct the debates so as to divide the time available among the committee members; more particularly, he must give every member the opportunity of expressing the views of this party as well as his own on the legislation under study. That is what I have been trying to do and that is what I will try to do again if I continue to sit as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. When hon. members read the proceedings of last night's committee meeting and read what was said between 8 and 10:30 p.m. they will realize that opposition members and particularly the hon. member for Mackenzie had ample opportunity to express their views on the four clauses that were examined during the evening. The hon. member himself admitted that he had participated in the debate on the clause in question. He contends that I prevented him from taking a greater part in the debate, that he asked to be recognized before the question was put on the clause concerned. He may have done so and I did not see him. In any event, the member had the opportunity to talk on that clause as any other member and I do not think I failed in my duty as chairman of the committee. I do not have a guilty conscience about the work I did last night.

[*English*]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Don't give us that nonsense. I never heard anything like it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Mackenzie has presented his case in a very clear way and the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean has expounded his position in reply to the matter brought to the attention of the House by the hon. member for Mackenzie. This is a particularly difficult situation. As the hon. member for Mackenzie has quite rightly said, while our Standing Orders apply generally to our debates and proceedings in the House of Commons, there is very little said about proceedings in committees. I believe it is recognized, and the Standing Orders so provide, that the rules which apply to the governing of