

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: You just convinced me that it is true.

Mr. Crosbie: Clause 6 gives the Government of Canada no jurisdiction that the Government of Canada does not now have.

Mr. Cassidy: Take it out.

Mr. Crosbie: We can only exercise—

Mr. Cassidy: Take it out.

Mr. Crosbie: This is so simple. We can only exercise the jurisdiction that the BNA Act gives us under Section 92 and the other powers of the BNA Act.

This House cannot exercise any other powers than those given it by the Constitution. Those are the only powers that we are exercising in this legislation. Anyone who has a different opinion can go to the courts, as has been done hundreds upon hundreds of times in our Confederation—

Mr. Rodriguez: Arrogance of the Tories.

Mr. Crosbie: —since 1867, and ask the courts to rule whether Clause 6 does anything other than that. Put your money where your mouth is and take a challenge to the courts once we enact this legislation.

Mr. Rodriguez: Arrogance of the Tories.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I just say that all those wonderful denials coming from the Minister have absolutely convinced me that what I said was true. Three other Ministers of the Crown, including the Prime Minister, also said in 1983 that they would never negotiate such a deal. We know now how they deal with the truth on the other side of the House.

POSITION OF PREMIERS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, considering what the Minister just said, could he explain to the House why the Premier of Prince Edward Island has said that it violates provincial jurisdictional authority? A key Minister in the Province of Quebec has now said it. The Premier of Nova Scotia recently raised a question, and the Premier of Ontario says that it violates provincial rights.

Mr. McDermid: He is a great authority.

Mr. Broadbent: Why is it that everyone else is wrong and the Minister is right? That is what we want to know.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman and his Party have said that they are going to prevent this legislation going through this House of Commons. They are going to obstruct at every point. They are going to disregard the rules—

Mr. Broadbent: No, no. Another lie. Another one.

Mr. Crosbie: They are going to twist the rules.

An Hon. Member: Your nose is growing, John.

Mr. Nystrom: Pinocchio.

Mr. Crosbie: On March 27, 1981—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister will answer the question.

Mr. Crosbie: On March 27, 1981, who said this?

I am one who believes that the majority must have the right to decide at some point, which is the essence of my question of privilege. At this point the will of the majority is being frustrated by the irresponsibility of the minority.

It is the same Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party who, seven years later, says that he is going to use the rules to stop the majority, to stop Parliament from reaching a decision—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: What a hypocrite, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT IN WESTERN CANADA—EFFECT ON LIVESTOCK HERDS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He knows that the western drought situation is getting worse every day, that feed supplies and water supplies in the drought area are becoming desperate for many farmers and their herds. He knows that some herds are being dispersed and sold off because of lack of feed supplies.

Is the Minister willing to make a commitment today for funds to provide an emergency herd maintenance program so that feed supplies can be maintained for these herds and for the farmers concerned?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure whether the Hon. Member, by his question, is trying to indicate whether or not we knew we had a drought situation in western Canada.

The fact is that we have been working with the provinces and with the farm organizations on a day-to-day basis since February. As I indicated before, we are meeting with my provincial counterparts in Calgary next Tuesday where we will be receiving a series of recommendations that will include all of the suggested options that the Hon. Member has put forward today, plus many others I would expect.

If this develops into a full blown drought, then we see action being taken in about five different areas.

Mr. Foster: The farmers want to know when the Government is actually going to do something. We know he has been meeting, been considering, been studying, and has been